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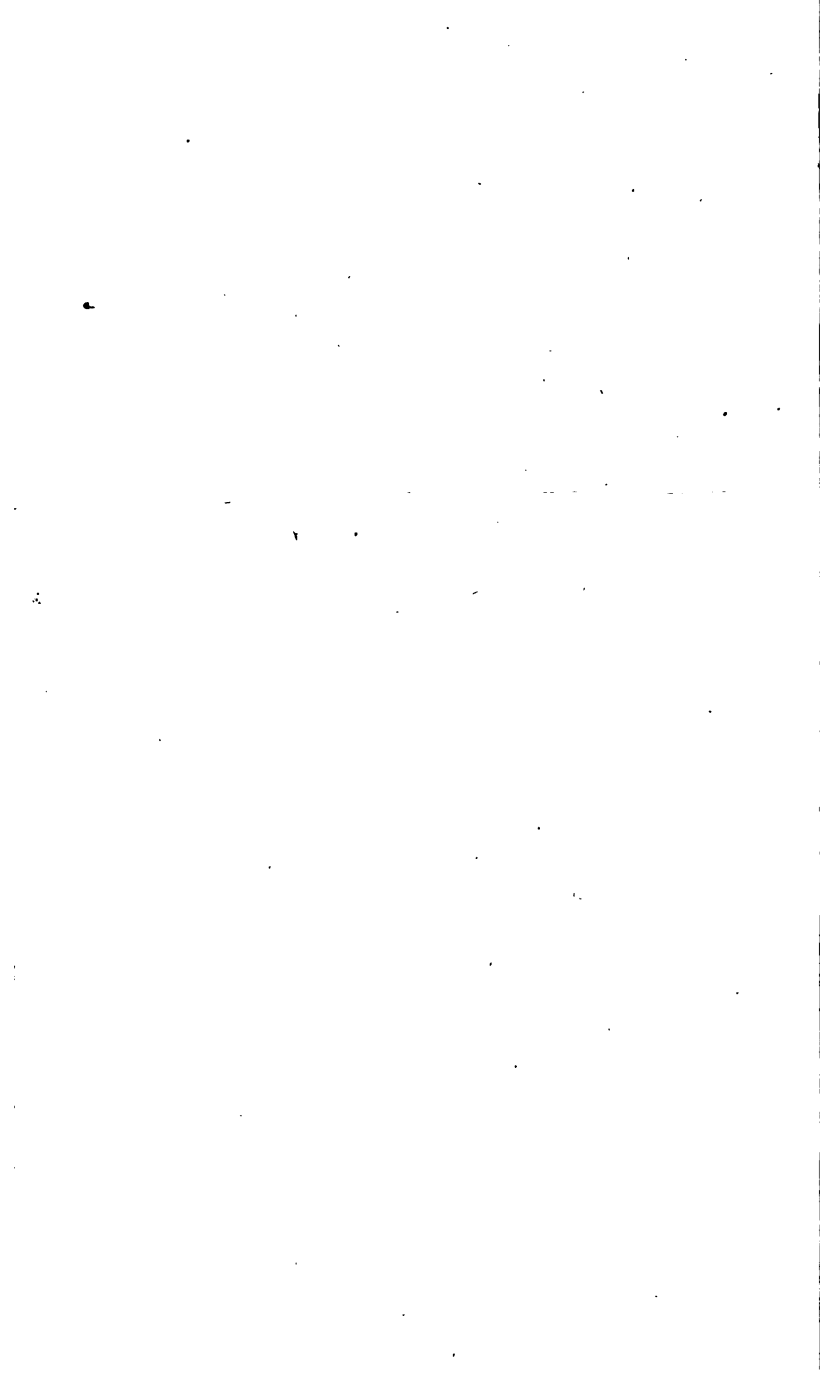
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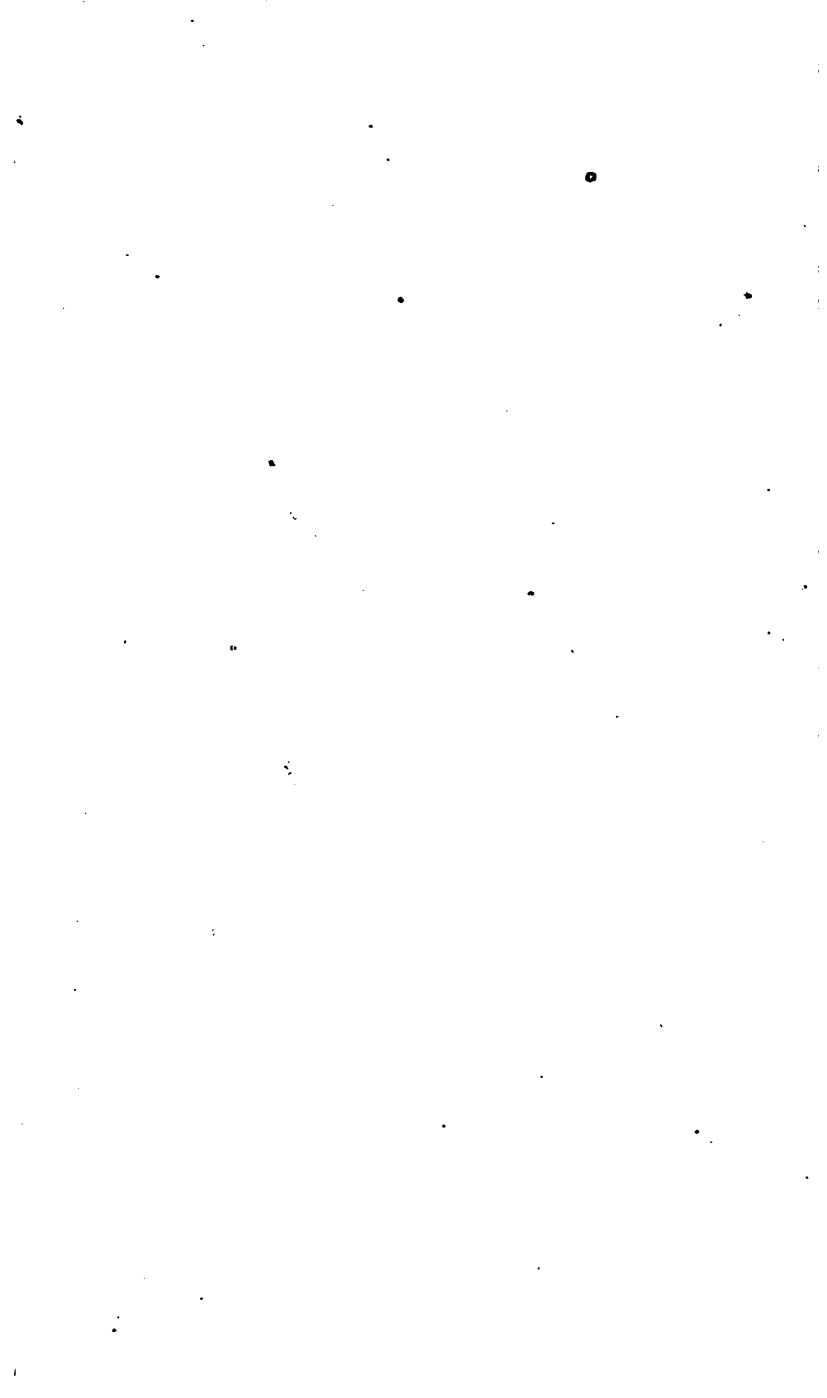
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Monmouth 8 22

He went with some other boys
and a dog to the river
to see how the water was
running. The water was
running very fast.

Lord Gage - Route No. 1.







S. view SYMOND'S YAT, on the WYE.

Ross Published by W^m Farrer. August. 1822.

THE
WYE TOUR,
OR
GILPIN ON THE WYE,
WITH
Picturesque, Historical,
AND
Archæological Additions.

BY THE
REV. T. D. FOSBROKE, M. A. F. A. S.
Author of *British Monachism—The History of*
Gloucestershire, &c. &c.

A NEW EDITION, MUCH ENLARGED.

ROSS:
PRINTED FOR, AND SOLD BY W. FARROR.

1822.



TO JOHN BRITTON, Esq. F. A. S.

DEAR SIR,

I take a particular pleasure in inscribing a Work, devoted to Illustration of the "British Tempè" to you, who have exhibited our richest remains of Antiquity in a superb style, which the Calcographic Art was before not thought to possess. To you the National Taste is highly indebted for improvement; and whatever augments the attraction of the Fine Arts, conduces to amelioration of character, in a much more important view than is commonly imagined.

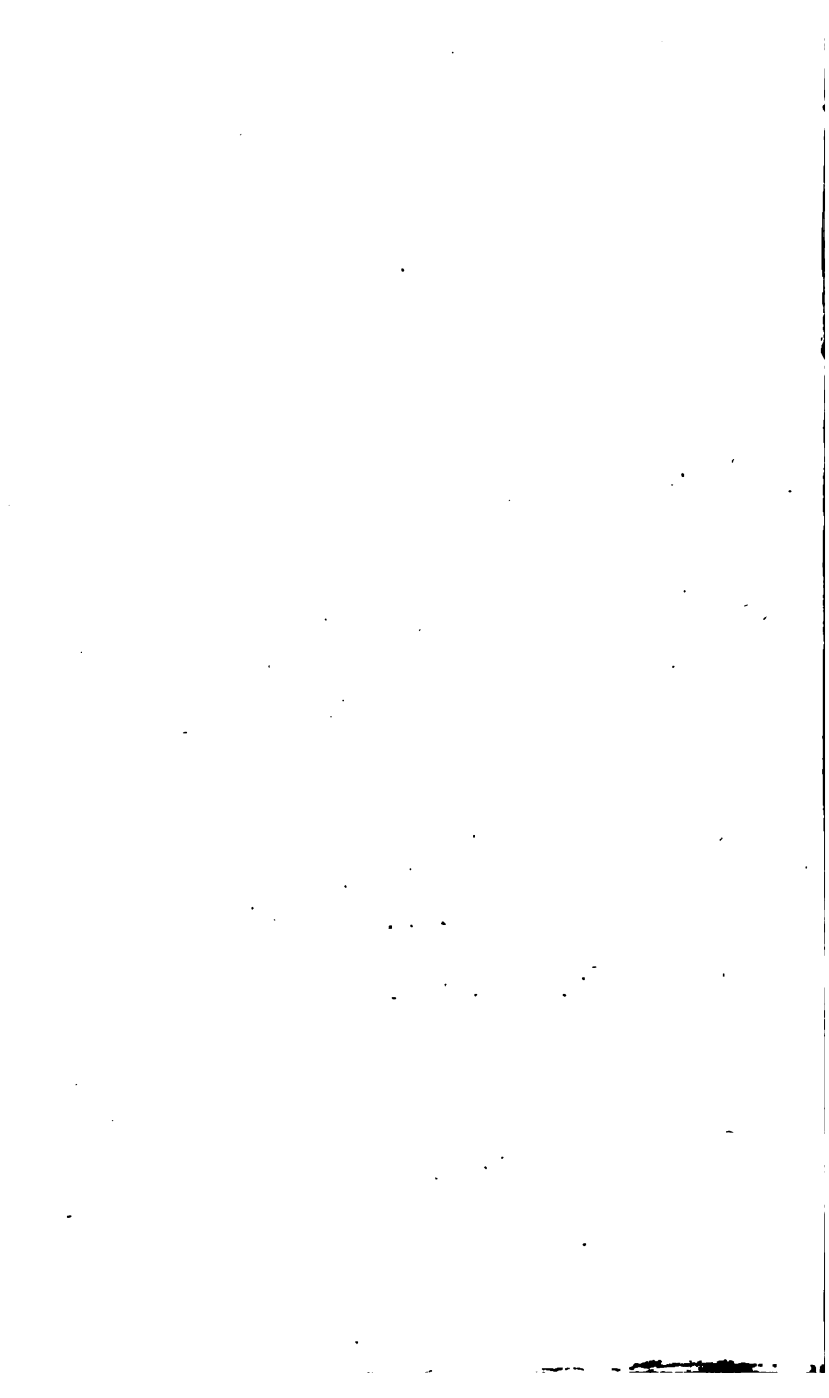
I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

T. D. FOSBROKE.

Walford on the Wye, June 23rd, 1822.



PREFACE.

THE chief differences of this from the preceding Edition are translation of the matter concerning Ross, to a distinct publication relating to that Town and its Vicinity, entitled *ARICONENSIA*, to be had of the same Publisher, as a proper companion to this work : and a division of the materials into three parts; the Picturesque, that the matter might conform to the Tour; the Historical to be read at the Inn; and the source of the river by way of completion, for perusal at leisure.

Historical and Topographical Illustrations were evident desiderata of Gilpin's Work. To make up the volume, he has added a journal by friends concerning certain parts of South Wales. The important parts of this Journal, are incorporated by the Author, in a small work, entitled "*OUTLINES OF MONMOUTHSHIRE AND SOUTH WALES*" to be had of the same Publisher, and compiled on purpose to accommodate such Tourists as may wish to extend their travels into that interesting region—The matter therefore included

in the first edition of the Wye Tour, from page 122 to 133, is transferred thither of course, and the room supplied by new matter, appropriate to the Wye Tour. These three publications may be had separately or unitedly.

As to the present work, the Author has treated the subject *con amore*, and endeavoured to enrich it from high authority and recondite literature. As *Cicerones* on the spot, supply catalogues and details, he has to rejoice, that the richness of the subject left no room for matter unconnected with sentiment or information. It may be proper to add that the grand scenes were repeatedly visited on purpose for this work, by the Author, and his friend, Thomas Foster, Esq. B. A. of Emanuel College, Cambridge. If he has any claims as an antiquary or topographer, there is no work which he has endeavoured to render more pleasing than this little book. But it was an animating subject—a glorious landscape laid out by the Omnipotent himself, which by the sublimity of its style, exalts admiration into piety: and by its wondrous disposition of objects, strikes dumb presuming art and prattling science.

Addition to the Land Tour.

N. B. Since this work was in the Press, a new road winding round the river, has been made from Tintern under Windcliff, commanding a superb view of the Banks.

WYE TOUR.

PART FIRST.

PICTURESQUE AND ITINERARY DEPARTMENT.

Introduction—General character of the Wye Scenery.

IT never occurred to Gray or Gilpin, who brought this Tour into notice, that the Dell of the Wye is in character, though of course not in details, (Nature making no Fac-similés), a portrait of the celebrated Grecian Tempé enlarged. It did not occur to these fine authors, because Ælian's description is inaccurate. That famous vale is a defile, distinguished by an air of wild grandeur.—The following extracts from a recent traveller prove the assimilation.*

* Walpole's Travels.

“ The Vale of Tempè is known to the Turks, by the appellation of Bogaz, a pass or strait, answering to our idea of rocky dell. Travellers are prepared for their approach by the gradual closing in of the mountains on each side of the river ; and by a greater severity of character, which the scenery assumes around it.” It is the same at Coppett Hill, where the grand scenes commence.

“ Nature has left only sufficient room for the channel of the river.” This ensues for miles upon the Wye ; but Tempè is only five miles long, the Wye, forty.

“ The scenery consists of a dell or deep glen, the opposite sides of which rise very steeply from the bed of the river. The towering height of these rocky and well wooded acclivities above the spectator ; the contrast of lines, exhibited by their folding successively one over another ; and the winding of the Peneus between them, produce a very striking effect, which is heightened by the wildness of the whole view, and the deep shadows of the mountains.” This is the leading character of the Wye Scenery, and is an exact general description of it.

“ On the north side of the Peneus, the mass of rock is more entire, and the objects which strike the eye, are altogether more bold, but perhaps more

picturesque." Instances of this occur, as the Wye approaches Chepstow.

A modern traveller finds also an assimilation of the country, and the banks of the river in the new world.

" In point of climate and aspect, Brownsville is perhaps the finest part of Pennsylvania; rich and extensive prospects are seen on all sides, similar to what you have in Herefordshire and Monmouthshire; the sunbeams pointing out, (as there) the windings of far nobler streams; broken as it is by rocks, much of it is rich soil; and where not so, it is rich beneath in coal and iron. The veins of coal appear in the sides of the hills, not requiring the trouble and expense of most of your mines in England."

" Several arks, or flat-bottomed boats, dropping down to Wheeling with glass, afforded me a favourable opportunity of viewing some of the beauties of the Monongahela. Without any other engagement, than that of now and then lending a hand at the roughly shaped oars, I joined them, and if you recollect our excursion up the Wye to Tintern Abbey you will have some idea of the scenery around me; at every turn of the river, farms, towns, bold and impending rocks, and fertile slopes, successively presented themselves to my delighted eyes.*

* Harri's American Tour, p. p. 84, 85.

The sources of beauty in the ground adjoining the Wye, are easily explained. Extensive flats, and continuous lines of hill, are the distinguishing features of tameness and identity. Marshall pronounces Herefordshire, a county, *altogether beautiful*, because the surface is broken in a remarkable manner, and it has no wide open vale, nor any extensive range of hill.*

Such being the romantic fairy scenes, embellished with rare antiquities, on the "Banks of the Wye," it is clear, that the former, ought to be delineated by the hand of a master; and the latter to be treated in a satisfactory elaborate form. In the picturesque, Gilpin is unquestionably an Oracle; and his work is a Grammar of the Rules, by which alone the beauties of the Tour can be properly understood and appreciated. The whole of his matter, so far as concerns the Wye subject, is therefore given in his own words, with the additional remarks of humbler Tourists and the Author.

The Wye says Gilpin, takes its rise near the summit of Plinlimmon, and dividing the counties of Radnor and Brecknock passes through the middle of Herefordshire; it then becomes a second boundary between Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and falls into the Severn a little below Chepstow. To this place from Ross, which is a course of near

* Rural Economy, ii. 197.

forty miles, it flows in a gentle, uninterrupted stream; and adorns, through its various reaches, a succession of the most picturesque scenes.

The beauty of these scenes arises chiefly from two circumstances; the *lofty banks* of the river, and its *mazy course*; both which are accurately observed by the poet, when he describes the Wye as *echoing* through its *winding* bounds.* It could not well *echo*, unless its banks were both *lofty* and *winding*.

From these two circumstances, the views it exhibits are of the most beautiful kind of perspective, free from the formality of lines.

The most perfect river views thus circumstanced, are composed of four grand parts: the *area*, which is the river itself; the *two side-screens*, which are the opposite banks, and lead the perspective; and the *front-screen*, which points out the winding of the river.

If the Wye ran, like a Dutch canal, between parrallel banks, there could be no front-screen; the two side-screens, in that situation would lengthen to a point.

If a road were under the circumstance of a river

* Pleas'd Vaga echoes thro' its winding bounds,
And rapid Severn's hoarse applause resounds.

Pope's *Eth. Ep.* 6

winding like the Wye, the effect would be the same: But this is rarely the case. The road pursues the irregularity of the country. It climbs the hill and sinks into the valley; and this irregularity gives each view it exhibits, a different character,

The views on the Wye, though composed only of these simple parts, are yet exceedingly varied.

They are varied, first, by the *contrast of the screens*; sometimes one of the side-screens is elevated, sometimes the other, and sometimes the front; or both the side-screens may be lofty, and the front either high or low.

Again they are varied by the *folding of the side-screens over each other*; and hiding more or less of the front. When none of the front is discovered, the folding-side either winds round like an amphitheatre, or it becomes a long reach of perspective.

These simple variations admit still farther variety from becoming *complex*. One of the sides may be compounded of various parts, while the other remains simple; or both may be compounded and the front simple; or the front alone may be compounded.

* The word amphitheatre; strictly speaking, is a complete inclosure; but, I believe it is commonly accepted, as here for any circular piece of architecture, though it do not wind entirely round.

Besides these sources of variety, there are other circumstances, which, under the name of ornaments, still further increase them. *Plain* banks will admit all the variations we have yet mentioned; but when this *plainness* is adorned, a thousand other varieties arise.

The ornaments of the Wye may be ranged under four heads: *ground, wood, rocks, and buildings.*

The *ground*, of which the Banks of the Wye consist, (and which hath thus far been considered only in its *general effect*;) affords every variety which ground is capable of receiving; from the steepest precipice to the flattest meadow. This variety appears in the line formed by the summits of the banks; in the swellings and excavations of their declivities; and in their indentations at the bottom, as they unite with the water.

In many places also the ground is *broken*; which adds new sources of variety. By *broken ground*, we mean only such ground as hath lost its turf, and discovers the naked soil. We often see a gravelly earth shivering from the hills, in the form of water-falls: often dry stony channels guttering down precipices, the rough beds of temporary torrents; and sometimes so trifling a cause as the rubbing of sheep against the sides of little banks or hillocks, will occasion very beautiful breaks.

The *colour* too of the broken soil is a great source of variety: the yellow or the red ochre, the ashy grey, the black earth, or the marly blue: and the intermixtures of these with each other, and with patches of verdure, blooming heath, and other vegetable tints, still increase that variety,

Nor let the fastidious reader think these remarks descend too much into detail. Were an extensive distance described, a forest scene, a sea-coast view, a vast semicircular range of mountains, or some other grand display of nature, it would be trifling to mark these minute circumstances. But here the hills around exhibit little except *fore-grounds*, and it is necessary, where we have no distances, to be more exact in finishing objects at hand.

The next great ornament on the banks of the Wye are its *woods*. In this country are many works carried on by fire; and the woods being maintained for their use, are periodically cut down. As the larger trees are generally left, a kind of alternacy takes place; what is this year a thicket, may the next, be an open grove. The woods themselves possess little beauty, and less grandeur: yet as we consider them merely as the *ornamental* parts of a scene, the eye will not examine them with exactness, but compound for a *general effect*.

One circumstance attending this alternacy is pleasing. Many of the furnaces on the banks of the

river, consume charcoal, which is manufactured on the spot; and the smoke issuing from the sides of the hills, and spreading its thin veil over a part of them, beautifully breaks their lines, and unites them with the sky.

The chief deficiency, in point of wood, is of large trees on the *edge of the water*; which clumped here and there, would diversify the hills as the eye passes them, and remove that heaviness which always, in some degree, (though here as little as anywhere,) arises from the continuity of grounds. They would also give a degree of distance to the more removed parts; which in a scene like this, would be attended with peculiar advantage: for as we have here so little distance, we wish to make the most of what we have.—But trees *immediately on the foreground* cannot be suffered in these scenes, as they would obstruct the navigation of the river.

The rocks which are continually starting through the woods, produce another ornament on the banks of the Wye. The rock, as all other objects, though more than all, receives its chief beauty from contrast. Some objects are beautiful in themselves. The eye is pleased with the tuftings of a tree: it is amused with pursuing the eddying stream; or it rests with delight on the broken arches of a Gothic ruin. Such objects, independent of com-

position, are beautiful in themselves. But the rock, bleak, naked, and unadorned, seems scarcely to deserve a place among them. Tint it with mosses and lichens of various hues, and you give it a degree of beauty. Adorn it with shrubs and hanging herbage, and you make it still more picturesque. Connect it with wood, and water, and broken ground, and you make it in the highest degree interesting. Its *colour* and its *form* are so accommodating, that it generally blends into one of the most beautiful appendages of landscape.

“ Different kinds of rocks have different kinds of beauty. Those on the Wye, which are of a greyish colour, are, in general, simple and grand : rarely formal or fantastic. Sometimes they project in those beautiful square masses, yet broken and shattered in every line, which is characteristic of the most majestic species of rock. Sometimes they slant obliquely from the eye in shelving diagonal strata ; and sometimes they appear in large masses of smooth stone, detached from each other, and half buried in the soil. Rocks of this last kind are the most lumpish, and least picturesque.”

“ The various *buildings* which arise everywhere on the banks of the Wye, form the last of its *ornaments* : abbeys, castles, villages, spires, forges, mills, and bridges. One or other of these venerable vestiges of past, or cheerful inhabitants of

present times, characterize almost every scene."

" These *works of art* are, however, of much greater use in *artificial* than in *natural* landscape. In pursuing the beauties of nature, we range at large among forests, lakes, rocks, and mountains. The various scenes we meet with, furnish an inexhausted source of pleasure: and though the works of art may often give animation and contrast to these scenes, yet still they are not necessary: we can be amused without them. But when we introduce a scene on canvas; when the eye is to be confined within the frame of a picture, and can no longer range among the varieties of nature, the aids of art become more important: and we want the castle or the abbey, to give consequence to the scene. Indeed, the landscape-painter seldom thinks his view perfect without characterizing it by some object of this kind."

" The channel of no river can be more decisively marked than that of the Wye. *Who hath divided a water course for the flowing of rivers?* saith the Almighty in that grand apostrophe to Job on the works of creation. The idea is happily illustrated here. A nobler *water-course* was never *divided* for any river than this of the Wye. Rivers, in general, pursue a devious course along the countries through which they flow; and form channels for themselves by constant fluxion. But

sometimes, as in these scenes, we see a channel marked with such precision, that it appears as if originally intended only for the bed of a river."

" Having thus analyzed the Wye, and considered separately its constituent parts; the *steepness* of its banks, its *mazy* course, the *grounds*, *woods*, and *rocks*, which are its native ornaments; and the *buildings*, which still farther adorn its natural beauties; we shall now take a view of some of those pleasing scenes which result from the *combination* of all these picturesque materials."

" I must, however, premise how ill-qualified I am to do justice to the banks of the Wye, was it only from having seen them under the circumstance of a continued rain, which began early in the day, before one third of our voyage was performed."

" It is true, scenery *at hand* suffers less under such a circumstance, than scenery at a *distance* which it totally obscures."

" The picturesque eye also, in quest of beauty finds it almost in every inoident, and under every appearance of nature. Even the rain gave a gloomy grandeur to many of the scenes; and by throwing a veil of obscurity over the removed banks of the river, introduced, now and then, something like a pleasing distance. Yet still it hid greater beauties;

XIII

and we could not help regretting the loss of those broad lights and deep shadows, which would have given so much lustre to the whole, and which ground like this, is in a peculiar manner adapted to receive."

Thus Gilpin. Another eminent person, Archdeacon Coxe, gives the following concise general character of the scenery.

"The banks of the Wye, for the most part, rise abruptly from the edge of the water, and are clothed with forests broken into cliffs. In some places they approach so near that the river occupies the whole intermediate space, and nothing is seen but wood, rocks, and water; in others they alternately recede, and the eye catches an occasional glimpse of hamlets, ruins, and detached buildings, partly seated on the margin of the stream, and partly scattered on the rising grounds. The general character of the scenery however, is wildness and solitude, and if we except the populous district of Monmouth, no river perhaps flows for so long a course through a well cultivated country, the banks of which, exhibit so few inhabitants."

Gentlemen are not in the habits of bawling, and

therefore Gilpin may be excused the censure "that he might with propriety have added the *echoes* and the variety of views from the banks,"*. The first he knew was a thing too common to deserve notice, unless there were remarkable circumstances attached to the natural history; and the last, as map-landscape, he merely looked at, because such views are in fact only Nature's shop-windows, richly set out. If he liked an object, he walked in and particularized it.

ARRIVAL AND STAY AT ROSS.

Upon the Gloucester road, near the turnpike, close to the Town, the fine Church with its belt of majestic elms, has all the dignity of a Greek acropolis. The town consists of narrow streets, and does not look like country-towns in general, two continuous lines of ale-houses, in a wide road, but like the trading streets of a city, especially of Bristol, the houses being various, and the shops frequently showy. This relief enlivens the narrow streets, and removes the remark of the caricaturist Woodward, that the dulness of country-towns is such, that one would think the inhabitants were all asleep at noon-day. The fine natural situation is however spoiled. The town should have been built on a terrace upon the brow of the

* Cambrian Tourist, p. 400.

river. But the defect here is of no moment, as visitors do not come to Ross, on account of the town, but of the country. This in truth is exquisite, for it embraces every glorious inland variety of ground, wood, water and rock. Some people think no view complete, which does not include the ocean; and Southampton, and the Isle of Wight present to them superior things. But there is a distinctness of character in the subjects; and why not allow merit to each, to the species of a genus? Table-ground, and mole-hill hillocks, present a manifest distinction to the grand irregularities of a mountainous country, and there comparison is fair, for it presents a clear, intelligible distinction, existing in nature.

The following is the general character of the scenery around Ross.

Town, site of. A ridge ascending from the East, over-hanging the Wye, which serpentine below, in strong curves.

North East. A fine up and down Country, mounting into a ridge above Crow Hill; beyond which is an exquisite view of the Town, with the rich back-ground of Penyard and the Chace.

North. A tamer country, but irregular, rich

and cultivated ; with breaks of wood, &c. in ridges : in the distance, picturesque Hills—The whole surface sprinkled with Spires, good Houses, cultivated Lands, and rich meadows.

West. Cultivated ground gently ascending. Acornbury and the Welch Hills in the distance.

South. A gentle undulating descent to the river, flanked on the left by the Chace and Howl Hill, and closed in by the ridges and hills, forming the exquisite Banks of the Wye, in semi-circle from the West to the South.

East. Flat rich Country, skirted by the Chace and Penyard, and lofty edge of the Forest of Dean.

Our late good old King, George III. once said to a General too much addicted to wine, "General, General, a pint of wine and a *long walk* after dinner, is a good thing. Your Majesty, replied the veteran, a bottle and a *short walk* is a better thing." Sir R. C. Hoare very justly observes, that a man on a Poney has far better chance of minutely noticing an object, than a wearied Pedestrian, whose thoughts nature in exhaustion must unavoidably direct to his dinner and his bed. The long walks around Ross, though including very

fine prospects, will not here be mentioned; only those within a distance, to which females would not object. The first and chief is the Prospect, adjoining the Church-yard.

FIRST. THE PROSPECT.

The view from hence, a fine relief from the dark brick buildings and awkward streets of the town, consists says Mr. Gilpin, "of an easy sweep of the Wye, and of an extensive country beyond it. But it is not picturesque. It is marked by no characteristic objects. It is broken in too many parts, and it is seen from too high a point." These are just technical objections, founded upon the disadvantage of bird's eye views, which reduce all to a map, for Gray truly said, "I find all points that are much elevated spoil the beauty of the valley, and make its parts, which are not large, look poor and diminutive."* But if the eye limits itself to the horse-shoe curve of the river, the green meadow, the ivied towers of Wilton Castle, and the light bridge, there is a very pleasing landscape.

* *Mason's Memoirs of Gray*, vol. iv. p. 136.

SECOND. CORPS CROSS TURNPIKE.

A little beyond is a fine view of Penyard and the Chace, in side screen.

THIRD. WALK TO WILTON CASTLE.

The shell is tolerably entire, and there is a green walk all round between the walls and the moat. One corner is in the style of the fifteenth century: the others are Norman. Go over Wilton Bridge, and turn down a footpath just beyond.



RIVER TOUR.

Ross to Goodrich.

STAGE FIRST.*

Right Bank.

FIRST, WILTON BRIDGE AND CASTLE—SECOND, WEIR-END—THIRD, PENCRAIG HOUSE AND WOOD—FOURTH, GOODRICH CASTLE—FIVE MILES.

Left Bank.

FIRST, MAN OF ROSS'S WALK—SECOND, NEW HILL COURT, COMMONLY CALLED THE HILL, THREE MILES—OPPOSITE THE CASTLE, TURNPIKE ROAD TO ROSS.

TRAVELLERS have observed, that the ride over Wilton Bridge is beautiful, and that was not the approach to Goodrich Castle by water too interesting to be given up, parties taking the tour down the

* The Stages end at the places of debarkation.

Wye, would see the country to a much greater advantage, if they pursued this road, and embarked at Goodrich, there being no variety or object worthy of notice for nearly four miles, after passing WILTON* CASTLE,† The general character of the scenery is, under Ross, meadows backed by cliffs, which soon terminate on that side in rich pastures, flat and low: on the Wilton side, the banks are at first low, but soon rise into a ridge mostly wooded, which ridge continues to Goodrich Castle, and sinks down to the Wye, beyond it.

The first object after embarkation is WILTON BRIDGE, and CASTLE.

The Bridge is called "an elegant structure"§ and "one of masterly architecture."|| The keystones lock curiously one into the other.‡ This description is enthusiastic. It is an old bridge without the rugged antique aspect of such buildings in general. In this view it is light and airy and does credit to the Elizabethan age, in which it was erected. The arch next the village is distinguishable from the others. The original was broken down by order of General Rudhall, in the wars of Charles I, in order to impede the rebel troops in their way to Hereford.*

* The places printed in capitals, are treated of in the historical part.

† Nicholson, col. 1151.

§ Cambrian Tourist, 431. || Nicholson, 641.

‡ Id. 1866.

* Inform. Mr. F. Jenkins.

"The Castle," says Gilpin, is shrouded with a few trees; but the scene wants accompaniments, to give it grandeur;" for some time there were only a few trees in their infancy around it, and it could be sufficiently seen from the water.† At present it is obscured in a manner quite foreign to the picturesque, though ten years ago its ivy-mantled towers were sufficiently conspicuous to render it a very interesting object.

"The first part of the river from Ross is, says Gilpin, tame, from the lowness of the banks." But some relief is afforded by the Man of Ross's walk,† a plantation of forest trees, on the brow of a rocky eminence, and the back view of Penyard and the Chace Woods, at the Weir-end.

After passing Wilton, Gilpin thus proceeds: "The bank however, soon began to swell on the right, and was richly adorned with wood. We admired it much; and also the vivid images reflected from the water, which were continually disturbed as we sailed past them, and thrown into tremulous confusion by the dashing of our oars. A disturbed surface of water endeavouring to collect its scattered images and restore them to order, is among the *pretty* appearances of nature."

"We met with nothing for some time during

† Cambrian Tourist, 431.

our voyage but these grand woody banks, one rising behind another; appearing and vanishing by turns, as we doubled the several capes. But though no particular objects characterized these different scenes, yet they afforded great variety of pleasing views, both as we wound round the several promontories, which discovered new beauties as each scene opened, and when we kept the same scene a longer time in view, stretching along some lengthened reach, where the river is formed into an irregular vista by hills shooting out beyond each other, and going off in perspective."

The Hill, or New Hill Court, three miles from Ross, on the left, is the seat of Kingmill Evans, Esq. Lord of the Manors of Ross, Walford, &c. The Man of Ross is said to have planned the central part of the building; the wings being of more recent addition. It is large and roomy, and has several very fine park trees.

Not far beyond, on the right is a pleasing mansion, sheltered by wood, and crowning the brow of a steep ascent; now occupied by George Little, Esq. It is called *Pencraig* and the beauties of its exquisite situation will be given under the *Land Tours*, because they are founded upon prospect.

Soon afterwards we come to the famous elevation and aspect of GOODRICH CASTLE, on the S. S. E.

bank, as viewed from the water and engraved by Bonner,* under the light of a setting sun. He calls it "an actual view of that part described by Mr. Gilpin, as its most important appearance; where standing upon its own promontory, it overhangs the crystal Wye, which here makes a graceful and brilliant sweep, and then retires into the bold scenery"† commencing at *Copper Wood*.

"Four miles from Ross, says Gilpin, we came to Goodrich Castle; where a grand view presented itself; and we rested on our oars to examine it. A reach of the river, forming a noble bay, is spread before the eye. The bank, on the right, is steep, and covered with wood; beyond which a bold promontory shoots out, crowned with a castle, rising among trees."

"This view which is one of the grandest on the river, I could not scruple to call *correctly picturesque*: which is seldom the character of a purely natural scene."

"Nature is always great in design. She is an admirable colourist also; and harmonizes tints with infinite variety and beauty: but she is seldom so correct in composition as to produce an harmonious whole. Either the foreground, or the back-ground is disproportioned; or some awkward

* Pl. iii. † p. 48.

line runs across the piece; or a tree is ill placed; or a bank is formal; or something or other is not exactly what it should be. The case is, the immensity of nature is beyond human comprehension. She works on a *vast scale*; and, no doubt, harmoniously, if her schemes could be comprehended. The artist, in the mean time, is confined to a *span*; and lays down its little rules, which he calls the *principles of picturesque beauty*, merely to adapt such diminutive parts of nature's surfaces to his own eye, as come within its scope.—Hence, therefore, the painter who adheres strictly to the *composition* of nature, will rarely make a good picture. His picture must contain a *whole*; his archetype is but a *part*. In general, however, he may obtain views of such parts of nature, as with the addition of a few trees or a little alteration in the foreground, (which is a liberty that must be always allowed,) may be adapted to his rules; though he is rarely so fortunate as to find a landscape so completely satisfactory to him. In the scenery indeed, at Goodrich Castle the parts are few; and the whole is a simple exhibition. The complex scenes of nature are generally those which the artist finds most refractory to his rules of composition."

"In following the course of the Wye, which makes here one of its boldest sweeps, we were carried almost round the castle, surveying it in a

variety of forms. Some of these retrospects are good; but in general, the castle loses on this side, both its own dignity, and the dignity of its situation."

Inferior writers say concerning this view, "before us the noble remains of Goodrich Castle, cresting a steep eminence, enveloped with trees, presented themselves; behind, the thick foliage of Chace Wood, closed the picture. The happiest gradation of tints, and the liveliest blending of colours were here conspicuous."* More correct delineation would say, on the left, are the Chace Woods, in front, Howl-hill in Walford, a chequered scene of high irregular ground, consisting of wood, field, rock, and roughet.

The Ferry-boat is guided by a rope, a custom certainly of the fourteenth century,† and probably of the earliest date in narrow rivers.

Before landing at the castle, the traveller should recollect the preparatory observation of Bonnor, that nothing can be more picturesque than the irregularly important appearance, and grateful diffusions of light and shade, which these formidable relicks afford to the observation of genius.‡

This ancient fortification owes its present form

* Cambrian Tourist, p. 432.

† Froissart, vi. 176.

‡ Itin. p. 48.

to four alterations at various periods ; as follows.

I. The original Anglo Saxon Castle, consisted only of the Square Keep-tower, with a few offices, destroyed afterwards, or worked into the newer additions.

II. In the 12th century, probably on account of the wars of Stephen, the Keep-tower was surrounded by the high buildings and round towers at the corners.

III. When castellated mansions came into vogue in the reign of Edward III., a considerable attempt was made to change the castle, as far as was practicable, into that form.

IV. In the 15th century, the castle assumed still more the aspect of the castellated mansion, by further alterations, as appears from the shell of the chapel.

Though there is only indirect historical evidence of these facts, yet the styles of architecture sufficiently attest them.

The published accounts of the castle, are full of intricate and tiresome details, and some undoubtedly incorrect.

The best way of surveying the castle, is to enter by the Gate-house, the most curious and perfect part of the whole.

It is made very long for a succession of Gates, and Portcullises. The latter are Roman: for Winckelman traced them at the gates of Rome, Tivoli, and Pompeii: and one is represented in an ancient painting of the Villa Albani.* After passing the Drawbridge, on the right hand is a Loop-hole, by which the porter received messages before opening the gates. In the wall, a passage is worked, by which he communicated with the applicant for admission in one way, and the constable of the castle on the other. Less suspected visitors waited between the outer and inner gates. The room over the Gateway was the Guard-room. Beneath the causeway, which supported the draw-bridge, is an arch, usual according to the accounts of Knaresborough, for the convenience of cavalry sallying.† Passing the Gateway, on the north or right hand, are windows with seats, for the purpose of reconnoitering the passage over the Wye; on the western side, is the Hall, as usual in most castles, opposite the Gate-house. A peculiarity attaches to this hall. From the steepness of the acclivity outside, it would have been too exposed. It is therefore secured by an artificial terrace and wall, so projecting, that no missile weapon from below could reach the windows. On the south side is an Angular Tower; next to it in the centre, the

* *Encyclop. des Antiq. v. Port.*
Knaresborough, p. 32.

† *History of*

old Anglo-Saxon Keep-tower, all in line. This strong defence faces the most accessible side, namely, the level summit of the promontory; and from these towers, a strong garrison could annoy a besieging enemy with arrows and projectiles, cross-bows and engines, upon the roofs. The side-long staircase is a Norman addition to the Keep-tower, as a better defence than the narrow flight of steps at right angles in front, which, according to Mr. King, and Cornish remains, distinguishes the Anglo-Saxon Keep. The chief method of attacking being by mining, and working upon the bottom of the walls by knights in the ditch, with pick-axes, and covered by others with pavaches, or large targets, the foundations and lower walls of these towers are prodigiously strong.* Mr. Grose notices a rare addition of buttresses below;† for the materials of the castle, being excavated all round, so as to make the Quarry form the Ditch; the latter was made more deep by these accompaniments, as well as the Towers better protected.

This was a very usual thing. Denon says ‡ To turn this situation [Castro-Giovanni in Sicily,] to double profit, and defend the approaches to the walls, they have hewn out of the rock, at the foot

* Grose's Military Antiquities, i, 385 plate.

† They occur on a smaller scale at Chepstow; and thus show, that these parts, in both castles, are coeval.

‡ Sicily, p. 95. Eng. Transc.

II

of these very walls, the stones made use of in building it." Grose notices the singular additions of the pyramidal Buttresses at the foot of the towers. On the window jambs of one of these towers is the inscription below*, which nobody can make out, because it was either never finished, or the stone is broken. Besides this, are a man with a hawk on his fist, (the emblem of nobility) a dog at his feet: on another the Virgin-Mother, a hawk standing on a partridge, rabbits at play, birds, &c. The Keep being the residence of the family, *this* tower appears to have been used for that of prisoners of war, detained until they were ransomed, by whom these figures were apparently carved. In castles, the upper ranges or apartments were occupied by the family and superior officers, the lower by servants; or they were offices. Although, in general there was a gallery of communication around the whole building, only wide enough for one man to pass, and niches with water-cocks, and seats for the guard, yet numerous doors opened into the Bailey, because our ancestors mostly lived in these castles, in suites of apartments, similar to those of the Inns of Court.

* Bonnor, No. iv, pl. xiii, has engraved it in facsimile. It is plainly *MASTRASUMT* (stone broken off)—*ADAM HASTEN*. The form of the letters is of the end of the fourteenth, or beginning of the fifteenth century.

On the Eastern side is the shell of a chapel, with piscinas, lockers, &c. for the ceremonies of the mass

The fine column by the Hall, the use of which has puzzled many, was for the centre of the grand Stair-case, like that at Christ Church, Oxford; for a grand stair-case and parlour were adjacent to ancient halls. The tower, which enclosed it, is destroyed, for the mouth of the mine which partly effected it, or was intended to do so, is on the left hand side of the ascending path to the castle; and it was besides, battered in breach from the opposite hill. From the S. W. angle of the castle, by the wicket field gate, may be seen the trench by which the besiegers advanced to storm the castle, and from the Barbican is a very fine view of the front of the fabrick, and, facing the north, of the surrounding country. The traveller should remember that the fields around once formed a Park the uninclosed state of which, must have finely harmonized with the rude ground of Coppet-wood hill, and been surprisingly enriched by the winding of the river, and the picturesque additions of the Priory in the middle distance, and the Church Spire

Tourists generally walk from hence to the Priory, where the boat usually meets them; but a traveller observes, that it is a plan by no means to be recommended: since by missing a circuit round the castle, its different tints and variety of attitudes,

occasioned by one of the boldest sweeps of the Wye, are entirely lost.* The castle however in these views has no back ground, or other set off of consequence. In general, it appears an indiscriminate heap of building: at all events, these are the very worst views of it.

STAGE SECOND.

Goodrich Castle to Symond's Yat.

Right Bank.

FIRST, FLANESFORD PRIORY, NOW A FARM—
SECOND, COPPET WOOD HILL—THIRD, COURT-
FIELD—FOURTH, WELCH BICKNOR CHURCH—
FIFTH, MONUMENT—SIXTH, BOTTOM OF COP-
PET WOOD HILL.

Left Bank.

FIRST, WALFORD CHURCH—SECOND, LAYS HILL
THIRD, BISHOP'S WOOD—FOURTH, RUERDEAN
SPIRE—FIFTH, LYDBROOK—SIXTH, ROSEMARY
TOPPING—SEVENTH, COLDWELL ROCKS—
EIGHTH, SYMOND'S YAT.

AFTER leaving the castle, the right view is declining precipice and hill, skirting narrow meadows; the left, flat pastures with Walford Church, and Village. In the N. E. and E. distance, the Chace

* Cambrian Tourist, p. 433.

and Penyard Woods, and Howl Hill. On the S. E. is the promontory termination of Coppet Wood hill, and rocks projecting westwards.

The first object on the right, is the remains of FLANESFORD PRIORY, of which the Chapel is now a barn. The rest consists of mere fragments, worked up into the requisite buildings of a farm, now occupied by Mr. Bellamy. The Chapel was an elegant gothic structure, of which, further mention will be made in the historical department.

From hence the Wye takes a bold turn, at which commences the proper introduction of its characteristic scenery, mountainous and rocky banks, here in fine undulating outlines of harmonious curves. Upon the right side is the long steep ridge of Coppet wood, teathed at the beginning with a ledge of rude rocks, ground partly heath, partly wood: upon the left is Bishop's wood, a more gradual ascent, dotted irregularly with cottages, orchards, and patches of wood, all rising in amphitheatre above each other.

“As we leave *Goodrich Castle*, says Gilpin, the banks on the left, which had hitherto contributed less to entertain us, began now principally to attract our attention, rearing themselves gradually into grand steeps; sometimes covered with thick woods, and sometimes forming vast concave slopes of mere verdure; unadorned, except here and there.

by a straggling tree : while the sheep which hang browsing upon them, seen from the bottom, were diminished into white specks."

" The view at *Ruer-dean-church* unfolds itself next; and is a scene of great grandeur. Here both sides of the river are steep, and both woody; but in one, the woods are intermixed with rocks. The deep umbrage of the forest of Dean occupies the front; and the spire of the church rises among the trees. The reach of the river which exhibits this scene, is long; and of course, the view, which is a noble piece of natural perspective, continues some time before the eye: but when the spire comes directly in front, the grandeur of the landscape is gone."

" The *stone-quarries* on the right, from which Bristol bridge was built, and on the left, the furnaces of *Bishop's wood*, vary the scene; though they are objects of no great importance in themselves." Thus Gilpin.

On the left are Bishop's Wood Iron works, and Coal-wharf: behind which is Bishop's Wood house, belonging to John Partridge, Esq. and occupied by Mrs. Ives, the mother of his lady. The brook which here runs into the Wye, called Bishop's brook, parts the counties of Hereford and Gloucester, and the parishes of Walford and Ruerdean. The latter, called Ruerdean, from (River-dean) has

much scenery, eminently picturesque, left of the river on the Lydbrook road, and in the forest. It consists of rude and broken elevations, and rough valleys, irregularly serpentine, adorned with purling streams, and trees, never formal, because untouched by the axe. The water bubbles in small cascades over lumps of rock; and the herbage is roughened into the picturesque by small tumps of long grass, weeds, furze, and wild bushes.

“ For some time says Gilpin, both sides of the river continue steep and beautiful. No particular circumstance indeed characterizes either; but in such exhibitions as these nature characterizes her own scenes. We admire the infinite *variety* with which she *shapes* and *adorns* these vast concave and convex forms. We admire also that *varied touch* with which she expresses every object.”

“ Here we see one great distinction between *her* painting and that of all her *copyists*. Artists universally are *mannerists* in a certain degree. Each has his particular mode of forming particular objects. His rocks, his trees, his figures, are cast in one mould; at least they possess only a *varied sameness*. The figures of Rubens are all full fed; those of Salvator square and long legged: but nature has a different mould for every object she presents.”

“ The artist again discovers as little variety in

filling up the surfaces of bodies, as he does in delineating their forms. You see the same *touch*, or something like it, universally prevail, though applied to different objects. But nature's touch is as much varied as the form of her objects."

"In every part of painting except execution, an artist may be assisted by the labours of those who have gone before him. He may improve his skill in composition, in light and shade, in perspective, in grace and elegance; that is, in all the scientific parts of his art. But with regard to *execution*, he must set up on his own stock. A *mannerist*, I fear he must be. If he get a manner of his own, he *may* be an agreeable mannerist; but if he copy another's he *will certainly* be a formal one. The more closely he copies the details of nature, the better chance he has of being free from this general defect."

"At *Lydbrook* is a large wharf, where coals are shipped for Hereford and other places. Here the scene is new and pleasing. All has thus far been grandeur and tranquillity. It continues so yet; but mixed with life and bustle. A road runs diagonally along the bank; and horses and carts appear passing to the small vessels which lie against the wharf to receive their burdens. Close behind, a rich woody hill hangs sloping over the wharf, and forms a grand back-ground to the whole. The

contrast of all this business, the engines used in lading and unlading, together with the variety of the scene, produce altogether, a picturesque assemblage. The sloping hill is the front scene; the two side-screens are low,"

" But soon the front becomes a lofty side-screen on the left; and sweeping round the eye at *Welch Bicknor*, forms a noble amphitheatre" Thus Gilpin.

On the right, just beyond the turn of the river, opposite Lydbrook, is Court-field House, the modern seat of William Vaughan, Esq. and King Henry, V. is said to have been nursed in a more ancient house on this spot. A gable end wall with gothic arches is called the ruins of the chapel.* Beneath is WELCH BICKNOR Church. Ireland says, " that the picturesque village of Welch Bicknor, presents itself in a rich valley on the right bank of the Wye, happily overshadowed by a thicket of woods, ranged in a grand and circular sweep. These are called, *Hawkwood*, and *Puckwood*, extending about one mile, along the bank of the river. The village Church and Parsonage House, group in a form peculiarly beautiful and interesting. A little below, the Wye is bounded on the opposite shore, by a long range of hills clothed with verdure, and diversified by a rich and broken soil of warm

* Cambrian Tourist, 424.

and reddish hue.* Here the colouring is too warm. The scene is merely fine park landscape. The flat ground on the right is gloomy and tedious. Towards the end of it, is a picturesque hill in front called *Rosemary Topping*, from the mellow luxuriance of its sides. As we approach this, the grandeur of the Wye scenery recommences at Coldwell Rocks, which nature has exposed to view by an avalanche of the ground from the summit. They form the upper part of the base of Symond's Yat. Just before approaching them is the cenotaph of an unfortunate youth, whose parents erected this monument, by way of beacon, to warn others from trusting to the deceitful stream. A gentleman named Warre, with his lady, &c. was making the Tour; and the weather being fine, they persuaded their son, who was a good swimmer to bathe. Unfortunately he was seized with the cramp, and a vain attempt having been made by the boatman to save him, was unhappily drowned. The epitaph is tedious. Some wretch has lately mutilated the monument.

The scene at Coldwell, on the left side, commences by a grand mass of rock, partially insulated of rude resemblance to the square keep of a ruined Castle. It is succeeded by a wall of rock, much

* Nicholson, 1356.

assimilating St. Vincent's, at the Hot-wells, near Bristol. Here and at the New Weir, in a style totally different from the stiff and bare forms of the Chepstow Cliffs, nature exhibits her divine skill in colouring and grouping. The attitudes of the rocks, though all in fanciful caprice, are of graceful informality. The most delicate touches are distinguishable at certain seasons, in an exquisite lacework of shrubs and foliage running over the whole, of a wild, but harmonious pattern. The river too is deep, dark, and solemn. The opposite bank is a succession of steep slopes, variously wooded, terminating in a hilly common of brown mountainous herbage, speckled with loose stones, and thinly streaked with lively green.

Mr. Gilpin says thus, " At *Coldwell*, the front screen first appears as a woody hill, [Rosemary Topping] swelling to a point. In a few minutes it changes its shape, and the woody hill becomes a lofty side-screen on the right ; while the front unfolds itself into a majestic piece of rock-scenery."

Approaching, says Ireland, the foot of *Coldwell Rocks*, a scene sublime and majestic is presented. The grand prominences are overhung with richly varied tufts of oak and shrubs occasionally contrasted and relieved by deep and shadowy dells, formed by the various lime-kilns on their surface : Warner who advanced to them, in an opposite direction

from the meadows westward, observes, that here also the scene becomes truly majestic. The rocks rising to a towering height, alternately start through the thick woods, which mantle their sides in lofty pointed crags; and display broad masses of their surface, relieved by creeping lichens, and diversified with mineral tinges.

“ Here says Gilpin, we should have gone on shore and walked to the *New Weir*, which by land is only a mile: though by water I believe, it is three. This walk would have afforded us, we were informed, some very noble river views: nor should we have lost any thing by relinquishing the water, which in this part was uninteresting.”

The walk alluded to, leads to the rocky abrupt termination of Coldwell Promontory, and is called Symond's Yat, or Gate. From hence is a superb bird's-eye view of the adjacent objects, and a far-extending prospect in what may be called from Claude's Pictures, the painter's map style. The near view is Salvator Rosa; the distant that of the master first named. The summit itself is a romantic green floor, walled in, without any formality, by copse-wood, and approached by a winding rocky road between high banks, under arches of hazles and underwood.

*Symond's Yat, to Monmouth**Right Bank.*

FIRST, COPPET WOOD HILL—SECOND, COO
 RICH—THIRD, WHITCHURCH—FOURTH, GRE
 DOWARD—FIFTH, ARTHUR'S VALE—SIXT
 LITTLE DOWARD, AND LAYS HOUSE—SEVENTH
 DIXTON CHURCH—EIGHTH, MONMOUTH.

Left Bank.

FIRST, NEW WEIR—SECOND, HIGHMEADOW
 WOODS—THIRD, TABLE MOUNT, &c—FOURTH,
 MONMOUTH.

ALL the accounts agree in stating, that SYMOND'S
 YAT, [or GATE,] is not less than 2000 feet above
 the water; and that although the direct distance
 by land is not more than 600 yards, the course by
 water exceeds four miles. One account is thus
 copious on the prospect.

"The forest of Dean, the counties of Monmouth,
 Hereford, and Gloucester, were extended before
 us, studded with villages, diversified with clusters
 of half visible farm houses;" with many a grey
 steeple, embosomed high in tufted trees. In
 painting the several views from this summit, the
 happiest description would fail; the impression
 can only be conveyed by the eye. The river here

makes a most extraordinary winding round the promontery; and having completed a circuit of more than five miles, flows a second time immediately under Symond's Yat. The whole of this mazy course may be traced from this eminence. From hence we discovered a very remarkable polysyllabical articulate echo, and we reckoned twelve distinct reverberations, from the explosion of a gun, fired upon this spot. It is here again customary for the boatmen to importune strangers, and if they can prevail on them, during their walk to *Symond's Yat*, will take the boat round the circuit of five miles, and meet them at New Weir, in order that no time should be lost, but this attempt we by no means encouraged; and the whole course of this extraordinary and romantic sweep proved highly gratifying. Goodrich spire, which we again wound round, presented itself: huge fragments of massy rocks, which have rolled down from the precipices opposite *Manuck Farm*, here almost choked up the course of the stream. The changing attitudes and various hues of *Symond's Yat*, lifting its almost spiral head, high above the other rocks, as we receded and drew near it, supplied a combination of tints surprisingly gay and beautiful: and having accomplished a sweep of five miles, we reached within a quarter of a mile, the spot where we began our

ascent to this steep eminence.”* In more precise language, the prospect is a fine panorama of the following scenery.

N. The mountainous side of Coppet wood hill, Common, and here, and there, Rock.

N. W. The spire and village of Goodrich, gentle green wooded pastures; at the foot, Rocklands and Huntsholm Ferry.

W. *Huntsholm*, a promontory of fields and orcharding; behind it, meadows, terminating on the other side of the river, in the flat village of Whitchurch, backed by rising ground; in the distance, the Welch Hills.

S. W. The mountainous side of the Great Doward, Common and Heath interspersed with cottages and enclosures. At the extreme summit, a summer house.

S. Staunton Church, upon the ridge of a promontory, the Buck-stone appearing at the nose of it, like a Yew tree: below, Lord Gage's or *High-meadow Woods*, in fine slope; at the foot, green meadows and the river. On the left side anear, the rocks of the New Weir; on the right, the rock wall of the Eastern side of the Doward, faced by high trees.

* Cambrian Tourist, p. 435

S. E. English Bicknor—cultivation intermixed with forest scenery; copse and cottage; anear, a side view of Coldwell Rocks in terrific attitude; and Rosemary Topping.

E. Ruerdean Wood and Fields with the Church in the distance; Bishop's Wood and Courtfield, with the semicircular sweeps of Hawkwood and Puckwood, before described, and joining Coppetwood, whence we commenced the description.

From hence the river proceeds in a horse shoe curve, around meadows and pleasing prospect scenery to Whitchurch. Mr. Gilpin, says,

“ Here we sailed through a long reach of hills, whose sloping sides were covered with large lumpish, detached stones, which seemed in a course of years, to have rolled from a girdle of rocks that surrounds the upper regions of these high grounds on both sides of the river; but particularly on the left.”

If the travellers prefer the Boat-passage, they will come to Huntsholm Ferry. On the right is Rocklands, now the residence of J. Gough, Esq. commanding a view of Coldwell Rocks, along the fine side-screens of Coppet hill: on the left, a seventeenth-century seat of the Vaughans, now a farm house. Upon the slope of the hill is a fine orchard, celebrated for the immense quantity of *styte*, or

other rich cider, it has been known to produce. If the traveller prefers leaving the boat at Hunts-holm Ferry, (and the ascent is easier to Symond's Yat) the ledge of rocks will bring to his view, spots worthy "the feasting banditti" of Salvator. Just above the place where the road passes between a cleft rock, the Giant Torso,* of the Great Doward shows its grand muscular outline. The effect is infinitely increased by being seen through mist or rain. It is part-mountain, part-precipice, but much injured by the rawness and strait lines, introduced by lime-burning and road-cutting. Unfortunately there is no chance of Time, Nature's Gilpin, preventing, in that master's own words "the hand of man, miserably scratching the lovely face of nature."

By this reach we come to the New Weir, a salmon fishery, which Mr. Gilpin terms the second grand scene on the Wye. Here is a Lock, an invention known in Upper Egypt, from ancient models,† and brought into this country from Flanders, in 1652, by Sir Richard Sutton, who is also said to have introduced Clover, and Saintfoin.‡

The scene at the New Weir, consists of exquisite crags, thrown into fine confusion by falls from the upper rim. These crags are full of projections and recesses, and heaps of ruin all shrubbed

* A Torso is the trunk of a statue without limbs.

† Denon, i. 391.

‡ Bray's Surrey, i. 134.

and weatherholed, and forming a most romantic variety of shelves, rude arches, clefts, and mimic towers. Between these, and the opposite bank of rock-wall and hanging wood, the river, rapid and confined, roars hastily along. In front are the rich eminences forming Lord Gage's Woods, rising above or lapping over each other. Along the banks is a series of meadows, of deep rich green, just enlivening the dusky sublime gloom of the narrow dell. A single rock column gives an agreeable novelty to the side crags. It is only one of many others similar, which were standing sixty years ago, insulated from the main wall of rock,* but now either fallen, or gormandized by the ravenous lime-kiln, who, regardless of the beauties of the Wye, "In grim repose expects his evening prey."

Of these rock pilasters, it is worth while to point out the extraordinary effect, by the following observation of Dr. Clarke.†

"He observed near Seraibashti the most remarkable appearance caused by rocks, that he had ever seen. At first he mistook them for ruins, somewhat resembling those of Stonehenge; but, as his party drew near they were surprised to find, that the supposed ruins were natural rocks, rising

* So Martin: Natural History of England, i, 341.

† Travels viii, 5.

perpendicularly out of the plain, like a Cyclopean structure, with walls and towers."

The Counsel, who attend the Assizes, are in the habits of exploring the Wye, and, as it is said, have given name to several rocks, particularly in this part of the river, as Linnæus called Plants, and Officers do newly discovered countries, by the names of friends. This rock-pillar is said to have been thus denominated *Bear-croft*, an eminent Barrister, well-known to the older part of the existing generation.*

Mr. Gilpin says "The river is wider than usual in this part; and takes a sweep round a towering promontory of rock; which forms the side-screen on the left, and is the grand feature of the view. It is not a broad fractured face of rock: but rather a woody hill, from which large rocky projections in two or three places, burst out; rudely hung with twisting branches and shaggy furniture, which like mane round the lion's head, give a more savage air to these wild exhibitions of nature. Near the top, a pointed fragment of solitary rock, rising above the rest, has rather a fantastic appearance; but it is not without its effect in marking the scene.—A great master in landscape has adorned an imaginary view with a circumstance exactly similar."

* *Cambrian Tourist*, p. 437.

" Stabat actua silex, præcisus undiq; saxis,
 " —dorso insurgens, altissima visu,
 " Dirarum nidis domus opportuna volucrum,
 " —prona jugo, lævum incumbibat ad amnem."

Æn. VIII. 233.

" But the most wonderful appearance of this kind I ever met with, is to be found in the 249th page of Anderson's Narrative of the British Embassy to China; where he tells us, that in Tartary, beyond the wall, he saw a solitary rock of this kind, which rose from the summit of a mountain, at least one hundred feet. Its base was somewhat smaller than its superstructure, and, what was very extraordinary, several streams of water issued from it."

" On the right side of the Wye, opposite the rock, we have just described, the bank forms a woody amphitheatre, following the course of the stream round the promontory. Its lower skirts are adorned with a hamlet, in the midst of which, volumes of thick smoke, thrown up at intervals from an iron-forge, as its fires receive fresh fuel, add double grandeur to the scene."

" But what peculiarly marks this view, is a circumstance on the water. The whole river at this place makes a precipitate fall; of no great height indeed, but enough to merit the name of a cascade; though to the eye, above the stream, it is an object of no consequence. In all the scenes

we had yet passed, the water moving with a slow and solemn pace, the objects around kept time, as it were, with it; and every steep and rock which hung over the river, was awful, tranquil, and majestic. But here the violence of the stream and the roaring of the waters, impressed a new character on the scene; all was agitation and uproar; and every steep and every rock, stared with wildness and terror."

With Gilpin's description, the travellers seem to have satisfied themselves. One only has justly remarked, that the pleasure of contemplation is interrupted by the nuisance of beggars.*

Below the New Weir a continuation of the same rich scenery still arrests attention, and rocks and wood seem to push and shoulder each other for conspicuous situations. The river roars along in a curve, between High-meadow woods on the left, and the rock-wall of the GREAT DOWARD, on the right. At the end of this reach, is a beautiful mass of rock, crowned with shrubs and pendulous creepers; in front, the river forms a pool, and is back-grounded by the summit of the Little Doward in Sugar-loaf.† A detached cluster of rocks, called *S. Martin's*, or the three sisters, skirt the river in passing down, near which at a short reach

* Id. 439.

† Mr. Macklows of Berkeley, has selected and painted this fine scene.

called S. Martin's Well, the stream is supposed to have a greater depth of water than any other part. At the extremity of this reach, from a beautiful vale, King Arthur's plain, seen before, again presents itself, assuming a castellated form.

When light and prospect recommence at the termination of the dark windings from the New Weir, the scenery on the Doward side is mountainous common, sprinkled with rock and occasionally teathed with ledges of it. The **LITTLE DOWARD** having been a fine British Camp, traces of three circular terraces winding in snail mount, may be dimly discerned; but are only conspicuous from the heights in the Forest. On the left hand are woody and wild elevations, interspersed with tame swells and hollows. The scene terminates with the Lays House, R. Totolinson's Esq. at the foot of the Little Doward on the right, opposite Table Mount. In front is a rich amphitheatre of hanging wood; on the right of which is Newton Court, the seat of Mrs. Griffin; below, on the water's edge, Vaga Cottage, the property of the Rev. H. Barnes, and now occupied by Dr. Price.

Upon the turn of the reach at the Lays, the river gently serpentine through a wider valley, down to Moamouth. The right side consists of

fields, forming the area of the sylvan amphitheatre, before described, and the left is made up of meadows in flat, swell, and hollow, intermingled with woody ridges, in front of steep side-screens of wood. Before, in the distance, is hill, and the steep banks of the river beyond Troy House, properly clothed with copse or timber. The church passed is that of Dixon.

The river is rather too low for a proper view of the scenery here, which is best seen from the road. This lowness is probably the cause why Mr. Gilpin 'as if gaping and sleepy, thus slabbars over a fine scene of continual change, and inimitable grouping. "Below the *New Weir*, are other rocky views of the same kind, though less beautiful. But description flags in running over such a monotony of terms. *High, low, steep, woody, rocky*, and a few others, are all the colours of language we have to describe scenes, in which there are infinite gradations, and amidst some general sameness, infinite peculiarities."

After we had passed a few of these scenes, the hills gradually descended into Monmouth, which lies too low to make any appearance from the water; but on landing we found it a pleasant town, and neatly built. The town-house and church are both handsome." Thus Gilpin. The other lions of Monmouth are a ruined tower of the Castle, with a

fine window of the florid Gothic, pretended to be that of the room where Henry V. was born; some other windows and remains of the Priory; fragments of town-gates and S. Thomas's Church erroneously called Saxon, but plainly of the first Norman style. The greatest curiosity is however the ancient Gate House. Tourists ought to stay a day at Monmouth in order to visit the *Kymin* and *Buck-stone*, from which last is to be seen a view, only surpassed by Wind-cliff, and far superior to Symond's Yat, inasmuch as it is totally void of the usual and common place, and consists of wood, river, mountain and precipice, wholly without flat ground, and grouped in a manner completely novel, in the true superb of the picturesque. Though extending for miles, not a single map feature dilutes the sublime grandeur of this view from the Buck-stone, where fancy still places the Druid Priest, moving the oracular rock, and dealing out the fate of nations to the intimidated worshippers.

If time permits, there are, according to the travellers, minor views worthy notice. Monmouth from a station at Tibbs's Farm, appears placed upon a semicircular ridge; near Tibbs's Bridge, the scene is wild and romantic; from other points it appears situated upon a plain; from the banks of the Wye, the houses seem rising upon the acclivity of a hill, the church forming a principal object*

* Nicholson, 918.

From the hill upon the road to Chepstow is a sublime prospect, both of the adjacent vale and town, skirted in the distance by the Skyridd, Blorenge, Sugar-loaf, and other blue mountains and ridges.

Here ends the first half of the Tour, which may justly be denominated "grand and beautiful." The following close of this part of the voyage by a Traveller is extremely apropos, as an epilogue.

"As we repaired to our Inn, we were involuntarily led to take a retrospect of the past amusements of the day. The partial gleams of sunshine had given additional tints to the rich and bold scenery, and every thing had conspired to render it a most interesting aquatic excursion. The variety of scenes, which Claude would have selected had he now existed, for his canvas; with rapture too, would he have caught the tints, and with the happiest effect combined the objects into a picture, kept up our attention, and removed that sameness, which too often accompanies water excursions. Such had been the pleasure of our first day's water expedition; and from the impression it made on us, we eagerly looked forward to some future period, when we may again retrace views, which memory will ever hold dear, and the pleasure be then redoubled with the remembrance of past occurrences."*

* Cambrian Tourist, p. 400.

STAGE FOURTH.

*Monmouth, to Tintern Abbey.**Right Bank.*

FIRST, TROY HOUSE—SECOND, PENALT—THIRD
WHITE-BROOK—FOURTH, PENN-Y-VAN HILL
AND MAYPOLE—FIFTH, PAPER MILLS—SIXTH
PILSTONE HOUSE—SEVENTH, LANDOGO—
EIGHTH, COEDITHEL WEIR—NINTH, LYN-
WEIR—TENTH, TINTERN—ELEVENTH, FIELD-
ING'S HOUSE—TWELFTH, ABBEY.

Left Bank.

FIRST, REDBROOK—SECOND, NEWLAND AND
CLEARWELL—THIRD, WYE SEAL HOUSE—
FOURTH, BICKSWEIR—FIFTH, ST. BRIAVELS—
SIXTH, HUDKNOLLS—SEVENTH, BROOKWEIR
—EIGHTH, ABBEY.

THE banks of the Wye owe their beauty to a rocky base; because only a thin coat of earth can ever be washed away, and, if it be, provided there is not such steepness as to create a mere gutter, it only breaks and improves into picturesque inequalities of surface the formal acclivity. Had the foundations of the banks been earthy, the latter would have flattened into mere hills, with round outlines. This result of the rocky base particularly appears in this tour. The forms of the banks

are of the house-roof kind, with a sameness of angular outline. Though they rise above each other in ridges, yet the usual mountainous curve is not so frequent as the strait or oblique rocky line. The cloathing, mere stumpy copse wood, will not bear close examination, as being much of the thorn character. The crags which are of the more marine kind; are often naked and uniform. The river runs sometimes stiffly, as in a trough, and often turns absolute corners, quite sharp.—Yet with all these imperfections, stated merely to show the contrast between *the fine* intermixed with sweet landscape in the former tour; such is the grand scale upon which nature works, that all is lost in the general effect, which is the sublime and awful, (precipice and height being the general agents,) occasionally worked up to the terrible. Vagan from Ross to Monmouth is a fine woman with strong features, but cheered with the playful smiles of youth: from Monmouth to Chepstow she is the grave matron, stern and commanding, like the august picture of Justice by Reynolds.* In the first tour she is a Princess; in the second a Queen.

The first object just beyond Monmouth, is on the right, Troy House, a seat of the Duke of Beaufort, built by Inigo Jones. It derived its name from the knight Trothy, and stands in meadows.

* Seen in his painting of the four Cardinal Virtues in New College Window.

on the right mouth of the steep pass, which the Wye enters, as the customary scene of retirement, which it likes to inhabit. A little above Troy is Gibraltar, a neat Cottage.

Upon leaving Monmouth, the spire of the church in the retrospect, with the Kymin woods rising from a rock of great height on the left, under which the river meanders, and to the right Pen-y-val Hill, form the rich and bold scenery, which attends the first re-embarkation.*

At the distance of little better than half a mile the river makes a grand sweep to the right, and, assumes a new character. Dismissing its rocks and precipices, it rolls through lofty sloping hills, thickly covered with waving woods. All here is solemn, still, and agreeable.†

Mr Gilpin says, " As we left Monmouth, the banks on the left were at first low; but on both sides they soon grew steep and woody; varying their shapes as they had done the day before. The most beautiful of these scenes is in the neighbourhood of St. Briavel's castle; where the vast woody declivities on each hand are uncommonly magnificent. The castle is at too great a distance to make any object in the view."

" The weather was serene: the sun shone; and:

* Cambrian Tourist.

† Nicholson.

we saw enough of the effect of light in the exhibitions of this day, to regret the want of it the day before."

" During the whole course of our voyage from Ross, we had scarcely seen one corn-field. The banks of the Wye consist almost entirely either of wood or pasturage; which I mention as a circumstance of peculiar value in landscape. Furrowed lands and waving corn, however charming in pastoral poetry, are ill-accommodated to painting. The painter never desires the hand of art to touch his grounds.—But if art *must* stray among them: if it *must* mark out the limits of property; and turn them to the uses of agriculture, he wishes that these limits may, as much as possible, be concealed; and that the lands they circumscribe may approach as nearly as may be to nature; that is, that they may be pasturage.—Pasturage not only presents an agreeable surface; but the cattle which graze it add great variety and animation to the scene."

" The meadows below Monmouth, which ran shelving from the hills to the water side, were particularly beautiful, and well inhabited. Flocks of sheep were everywhere hanging on their green steeps; and herds of cattle occupying the lower grounds. We often sailed past groups of them laving their sides in the water; or retiring from the heat under sheltered banks."

" In this part of the river also, which now begins to widen, we were often entertained with light vessels gliding past us. Their white sails passing along the sides of wood-land hills were very picturesque."

" In many places also the views were varied by the prospect of bays and harbours in miniature, where little barks lay moored, taking in ore and other commodities from the mountains. These vessels, designed plainly for rougher water than they at present encountered, shewed us, without any geographical knowledge, that we approached the sea." Thus Gilpin.

On the Monmouthshire side of the river, about a mile and a half below Monmouth, is the church of PENALT, situated on the side of a woody eminence, at the back of which is an extensive common. Opposite Penalt, is the Castle-imitation seat, of the Hon. — Quin, before him, of the Wyndhams.

At Red-moan hills, a little farther on the left, the curling smoke issuing from the Iron-works forms a pleasing accompaniment to the scenery, the inspiration of which it for a while suspends.* Below are lower Red-brook Tin-works. Such Cyclopean shops and sheds, in a beautiful Arcadia of Nymphs, Dryads, Naiads and Fauns, remind us

* Cambrian Tourist, from Nicholson.

of the discordant union of Vulcan and Venus. The grim worshipers of the God of Fire, only animate with picturesque effect immense vaulted caverns; and their deity should have been wedded to Bel-lousia, the boisterous daughter of Æolus, from whom he derived the power of liquefying the obstinate ore.

Two miles from Red-brook on the left, is Wye Seal House; and on the right, in a hollow vale, nearly hidden from sight by the woody acclivities on each side, is the hamlet of WHITE-BROOK, where Paper Mills now occupy the ruins of the old Iron-works. The name is derived from a small stream which falls into the Wye. Beyond it the river forms a grand sweep, flowing into an abyss, between two ranges of lofty hills, thickly over-spread with woods.

A little below White-brook, appears on the left side, a considerable eminence, called Pen-y-van Hill, the summit of which usually exhibits a May-pole, around which the Peasantry now or recently celebrated the Roman Floralia; called by us May-games, with dances and feasting.

Between this hill and the river lie the ruins of the ancient mansion of Pilstone, humbled to the mere appendages of a farm. On the opposite side of the river, amidst grand scenery and hills luxuriantly mantled with wood, stands Bigs-weir

House, late the residence of General Rooke, long M. P. for the county of Monmouth, and a descendant of Sir George Rooke, who took Gibraltar. The House stands at an easy distance from the river on a gentle rise, which gradually swells into an extensive hill, on whose summit are the remains of the Castle of St. BRIAVELS.

Here one of the accounts* makes the following remark. "The voyager will lose one interesting feature almost peculiar to the Wye; we allude to the numerous weirs, that obstruct its navigation, when the tide is out; but at which time, these minute cataracts (if we may be allowed the expression) form a pleasing contrast to the smooth surface of the intervening pools. At high water the tide flows over them, and makes the river appear perfectly level."

"We have hitherto only had occasion to notice New-weir and Bigs-weir; but from the latter to a considerable distance below Tintern Abbey, they occur very frequently scarcely half a mile from each other."

From hence a long reach, with Tiddenham Chase Hill, rising conspicuously in front, leads to the beautiful village of Landogo. It stands upon a lofty hill, whose indented side is mantled with deep woods; and cottages are intermingled.

* Excursion from the source of the Wye, &c. p. 55.

Here the river forms a smooth bay. The Hudknoles make a fine back-ground to this scene. From the brow of the hill behind, called Cleiaden Shoots, is a pretty view of the river and village. In winter a cascade falls from this abrupt eminence.

From hence the Wye becomes a tide river, and the result is, that the translucent stream, which had hitherto alternately reflected, as in a mirror, the awful projection of the rocks, and the soft flowery verdure of its banks, is affected by the influence of the tide, and rendered turbid and unpleasing to the eye.*

Coedithel-weir, a large fall of water next occurs.

About a mile further on the left bank of the river is Brook-weir, a populous little hamlet; one of those little ports, the formation of which was so encouraged by Henry and Elizabeth when the nobility to get rid of the lead, wool, and other articles upon their estates, supplied the merchants with money, who, from factors, at last became principals.† The trade is carried on with Bristol: the freights, chiefly, corn, hoops, and faggots.

Leaving Brook-weir, one bank of the river is fringed with a thick woody acclivity; and on the other are some rich meadows, which terminate at the village of Tintern.

* *Cambrian Tourist*, 446.

† *Lodge's Illustrations of British History*, vol. 9. p. 211.

Upon rounding the point at Iyn-weir, the church of Tintern, only a few yards from the water's edge, has a singular and picturesque appearance. A house, formerly belonging to the family of Fielding was battered, says Tradition, by the parliamentary troops, from the brow of the hill, on the opposite side of the river, where there has certainly been an encampment.

From Tintern we soon reach the celebrated ruin of the Abbey, estimated with its appendages, the most beautiful and picturesque view on the river. Mr. Glover considers this opinion, as chiefly founded upon the ruin; and the declaration of Sir R. C. Hoare is, that "this abbey (as to the first coup d'œil) exceeds every ruin he had seen either in England or Wales." The fact is, that the scenes on the Wye are not proper subjects of comparison; that Tintern ranks in the scale of interest with any; but that such interest, though of equal strength, is of distinct character. One is curious and beautifully dressed rock, as Coldwell; another, picturesque craigs, as the New Weir; a third, as Abbey Tintern, a fine woody amphitheatre brought into double effect by the ruin; a fourth, as Windcliff a grand assemblage of precipice, and irregular abyss.

Mr. Gilpin says, "*Tintern-Abbey* occupies a gentle eminence in the middle of a circular valley,

beautifully screened on all sides by woody hills, through which the river winds its course ; and the hills, closing on its entrance and on its exit, leave no room for inclement blasts to enter. A more pleasing retreat could not easily be found. The woods and glades intermixed ; the winding of the river ; the variety of the ground ; the splendid ruin, contrasted with the objects of nature ; and the elegant line formed by the summits of the hills which include the whole, make altogether, a very enchanting piece of scenery. Every thing around breathes an air so calm and tranquil, so sequestered from the commerce of life, that it is easy to conceive, a man of warm imagination, in monkish times, might have been allured by such a scene to become an inhabitant of it."

" No part of the ruins of Tintern is seen from the river, except the abbey-church. It has been an elegant Gothic pile ; but it does not make that appearance as a *distant* object which we expected. Though the parts are beautiful, the whole is ill shaped. No ruins of the tower are left, which might give form and contrast to the buttresses and walls. Instead of this, a number of gabel-ends hurt the eye with their regularity, and disgust it by the vulgarity of their shape. A mallet judiciously used (but who durst use it?) might be of service in fracturing some of them ; particularly those of the cross aisles, which are most disagree-

able in themselves, and confound the perspective."

" But were the building ever so beautiful, encompassed as it is with shabby houses, it could make no appearance from the river. From a stand near the road it is seen to more advantage."

" But if *Tintern-abbey* be less striking as a *distant* object, it exhibits, on a *nearer* view, (when the whole together cannot be seen,) a very enchanting piece of ruin. The eye settles upon some of its nobler parts.—Nature has now made it her own. Time has worn off all traces of the chisel; it has blunted the sharp edges of the rule and compass, and broken the regularity of opposing parts. The figured ornaments of the east window are gone: those of the west window are left. Most of the other windows, with their principal ornaments, remain."

" To these were superadded the ornaments of time.—Ivy in masses uncommonly large, had taken possession of many parts of the wall, and given a happy contrast to the grey-coloured stone of which the building is composed: nor was this undecorated. Mosses of various hues, with lichens, maiden-hair, penny-leaf, and other humble plants, had overspread the surface, or hung from every joint and crevice. Some of them were in flower, others only in leaf; but all together gave those full-blown tints which add the richest finishing to a ruin."

"Such is the beautiful appearance which Thetern Abbey exhibits on the *outside*, in those parts where we can obtain a nearer view of it. But when we *enter it* we see it in most perfection; at least if we consider it as an independent object, unconnected with landscape. The roof is gone, but the walls, and pillars, and abutments which supported it are entire. A few of the pillars have indeed given way; and here and there a piece of the facing of the wall: but in corresponding parts, one always remains to tell the story. The pavement is obliterated; the elevation of the choir is no longer visible; the whole area is reduced into one level, cleared of rubbish, and covered with neat turf, closely shorn; and interrupted with nothing but the noble columns which formed the aisles and supported the tower."

"When we stood at one end of this awful piece of ruin, and survey'd the whole in one view, the elements of air and earth, its only covering and pavement; and the grand and venerable remains which terminated both, perfect enough to form the perspective, yet broken enough to destroy the regularity—the eye was above measure delighted with the beauty, the greatness, and the novelty of the scene. More *picturesque* it certainly would have been, if the area, unadorned, had been left with all its rough fragments of ruin scattered round; and bold was the hand that removed them:

yet as the outside of the ruin, which is the chief object of *picturesque curiosity*, is still left in all its wild and native rudeness, we excuse, perhaps we approve, the neatness that is introduced within: it *may* add to the *beauty* of the scene: to its *novelty* it undoubtedly *does*." Thus Gilpin.

His connivance at the bowling-green area is not however universally approved; for it is observed, that the care which has been officiously taken to remove every fragment lying scattered through the immense area of the fabric, and the smoothness of the shorn grass, which no scythe should have dared to clip, in a great measure perverts the character of the scene. These circumstances but ill accord with the mutilated walls of an ancient ruin.* This is all very true, for such ironing the surface, as if it were linen, certainly will spoil any picture whatever by infallibly introducing primness and formality; but petticoats and high grass do not harmonize, and ladies would not promenade among nettles, and risque encountering toads and snakes, who are fond of ruinous heaps.

Tintern Abbey is an object worthy visiting by all descriptions of persons, which circumstance, if comfort were excluded, would not ensue with regard to any others than Antiquaries, and Ar-

* Cambrian Tourist, p. 447.

tists who love groping, and disregard wet feet and legs. Removal of the monuments was foolish, but mowing of the area was indispensable, if people were to walk about it pleasantly. A further remark on the subject will be made hereafter.

The rule of the Cistercian monks, who were great agriculturists, was to chuse sequestered spots of exquisite picturesque beauty.

Netley, near Southampton, is a striking specimen; and by taking in the offscap, a picture in the whole, finer than Tintern; but not as a limited landscape. The chronicle of Tintern Abbey states, that William Fitzosbert, Earl of Owe in Normandy, was presented by the Conqueror with the manors of Wollaston and Tidenham, for the maintenance of a garrison and forces, to effect conquests over the Welch. He left a son, Richard, who had the same privileges; and Richard had issue, Walter. This Walter, after his ancestors and himself had acquired all Nether-went and half of Grun, then founded Tintern Abbey, in the year 1131.* Thus the Abbey Chronicle; and here it is fit to make a short pause. Leland says "There was a sanctuary graunted to Tinterne, but it hath not be usid many a day."† It is well known that sanctuary was annexed to most of the Welch Churches; that

* Dugdale's Monasticon, i. 724.

† Collectanea, l. 104.

these were built at, or near Druidical places of worship,† and that those of Christian appropriation, deserted by the British clergy, were favorite spots for donations to abbies among the Anglo-Saxons, that they might not disgust the prejudices of the conquered.§ Theodorick, a Christian prince, had a palace just by. There is room to think, that Walter, the first founder, by way of *amende honourable*, for his conquest over the Welch, did like Canute at Edmondsbury, found an abbey upon a spot previously sanctified. This foundation was however far from complete, for William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, in his confirmation charter, dated 7. Henry iii, mentions donations of his ancestors and *other* founders and donors; as also the gift of Trelleck, a Druidical spot, by Gilbert and Richard Strongbow.|| Walter dying in 1132, only *one year* after the foundation, without issue, and of course without time to finish such a pile of building, was succeeded by Gilbert, his brother and heir, first Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strong-bow, a term of the day for a great warrior; not implying skill in archery, which men at arms did not use.* He died in 1148, and was buried at Tintern. To his titles and estates succeeded his son Richard Strong-bow.

† Rowlands's *Mona Antiqua*, p. 231,

§ XV Scriptores, p. 60.

|| Dagdale, i. 723.

* The term Bow was a common cant expression variously applied. See Douce on Shakespeare.

He died in 1178, and left an only daughter Isabella; she was married to William Marshall, the elder, who died and was buried at the Temple, London, in 1219. The issue of this William and Isabella was five sons and as many daughters. The former were all successively Earls of Pembroke, brother after brother, but died childless. Matilda the eldest daughter, married Hugh Bigot, Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk, by whom she had a son, Hugh. This last Hugh was the father of Roger Bigot,† who, as William of Worcester asserts from the Abbey Obituary, built the church of Tintern, which was consecrated for divine service in 1287. His arms were accordingly placed in the east window. Upon the supposition, that the date of the foundation is always that of the fabrick, a position which instances beyond number confute, this date of William of Worcester is denied, but unjustly. The church is in all its parts, a unique whole, a copy of Salisbury Cathedral, built only a few years before; and whatever were the former buildings, (like Chepstow Castle, of the same style of architecture, and belonging to Roger,) they were both mixed up in the same fabrick, and probably by the same workmen. At Chepstow there are external marks of this alteration, but at Tintern none, at least visible, possibly because there is no access to the cript: all is in the style.

† Dugdale ubi supra.

of the 13th century, i.e. in the words of Mr. S. Lysons, "simplicity and elegant ornament."*

The resemblance between this church, and that of Netley, of the same era, is strong. The west window has the mullions perfect, and most beautiful they are, in pattern. Still reasonable doubts may be entertained whether the church was even complete in 1287: for the great eastern window, of nearly the whole width of the choir, and carried almost as high as the vaulting, is of the style of the next century.† It was stripped of its lead in the wars of Charles I. and as the length of the church is 228 feet, the breadth 150, of course the height of the vaulting, was (according to the usual rule) of the last admeasurement.‡ When the door of the Abbey is thrown open, the sudden effect is astonishing.

Whatever may be the offence to the picturesque, in landscape consideration, by keeping the interior of the church in the state of a green lawn, it is plain that it gives a mighty effect to the architectural beauty of the interior, by not distracting the eye from its elegant proportions: leaving the whole an unimpeded view, and adding a solemn vacancy, which introduces reflection and pensive-

* Britannia, ii. 53. † Id. p. 53. § Willis's Cathedrals, ii. 763. William of Worcester makes it only 11 fathoms, i.e. 45 feet.

ness. The grand back-ground, seen through the east-window, is truly sublime. The ivy especially on the right side of the nave, clusters in a manner which no scene of the kind, ever surpassed, perhaps never equalled—and all this in a spot, around which nature has spread an awful holiness. It is a hermitage scene; no flaunting flowers, or yellow beaths: but the attempered sober majesty of religion, where the lofty heights reduce the glaring day to a meek twilight, and a serene dark green of unvarying wood preserves the mind from any incongruous intrusion.

Such, even in ruin, is *holy* Tintern: what would it be, if entire, and as anciently “with storied windows richly dight.” The splendid hues would form a singular contrast to the gloomy grandeur of its shadowy recesses. The changes of the day and season would vary the effect, and give a new aspect to the objects of illumination. The rays of the sun at noon, streaming through the stained glass, would communicate its vivid tinge to the rude effigies in marble, and heraldic distinctions, with which the tombs and monuments were decorated. The approach of evening would deepen this visionary tone, and night add an indescribable solemnity. The moon, in a cloudless sky, shedding her beams through the painted glass on the dim shrines and fugitive memorials of the dead, in the immense nave, would form an imposing combi-

nation with the glimmering altars of the deity, and a martyrdom, or mournful story of the passion, vividly depicted in an elevated compartment of the window.—The whole would acquire a nameless character from the stillness of an hour, broken only by the echoes of a solitary foot-fall, or the melancholy cry of the birds of night.

“ In the dark ages, when the mind was more open to notions of preternatural agency, and the imagination less under the controul of reflection, the effect of such a scene must have been incalculable. A monk, “ or pale-eyed virgin,” at their orisons, or even a steel-clad knight of the cross, pacing the cold stone floor at midnight, in performance of his vow, and impressed with the prevailing belief, that the spirits of the deceased were nightly permitted to revisit the abodes of the living, might well raise their eyes to the lofty casement, in apprehension, that some sainted figure would descend from its station on the glass, and reveal a messenger from another world. For even an ordinary mind might think,”

“ In such a place, as this, at such an hour.
If aught of ancestry can be believed,
Descending angels have conversed with man,
And told the secrets of the world unknown.”*

The admirable effect of fine architectural build-

* This fine passage on stained glass, is from the *Literary Gazette* of July 12, 1817, p. 26, 27.

ings by moonlight is well-known; and men of fancy and sentiment have happily applied the rule to this supreme ruin. One of them thus depicts his wishes, with which persons of taste will coincide, except with regard to the ghost part, upon which there will probably exist much difference, if not of opinion, at least of inclination.

“ The great tree, he says, or vegetable rock, or Emperor of the Oaks (if you please) before which you and I bowed with a sort of reverence in the fields of Tintern, and which for so many ages has borne all the blasts and bolts of Heaven; I should deem it a gratification of a superior kind, to approach again with “unsandaled foot” to pay the same homage, and to kindle with the same devotion.—But I should find amidst the magnificent ruins of the adjoining abbey, something of a sublimer cast, to interest and give poignancy to my feelings. I must be alone. My mind must be calm and pensive. It must be midnight. The moon half veiled in clouds, must be just emerging from behind the neighbouring hills. All must be silent, except the wind, gently rushing among the ivy of the ruins.—The river lulling by its faint murmurings its guardian genius to repose, and the owl whose funeral shriek would sometimes die along the walls in mysterious echoes. I should then invoke the ghosts of the abbey; and Fancy with one stroke of her magick wand, would rouse

them from their dusty beds, and lead them into the centre of the ruin. I should approach these shadowy existences with reverence, make enquiries respecting the customs and manners, and genius and fate of antiquity, desire to have a glimpse of the destiny of future ages, and enter upon conversations which would be too sacred and even dangerous to communicate.”*

Now Tintern would be a most unfortunate spot for visits of speculation concerning future destinies, at least in the minds of old women, and poets, (who resemble in many points old women) for superstition and imagination are relatives. It is a singular coincidence, that *two kings* sought refuge at Tintern, and only left it to meet violent deaths, viz. Theodorick, King of Glamorgan, of whom under the Historical part, and King Edward ii. who fled here from the pursuit of his “She-wolf.”†

Of the scattered remains, many fine capitals of rich foliage, and beautiful mouldings, with quarterfoils, rosettes, and finely proportioned ogees, are interesting to the antiquary. There are also broken effigies of a knight in chain mail, a pavache shield, and crossed legs, as a Crusader, or a Vowee to take the cross: of an image of the Virgin Mary;

* Reed's Remains, p. 164.
M. S. S. p. 336.

† Smyth's Berkeley

and a third of less easy ascription. The figure of the knight is ascribed to Gilbert Strongbow, upon the authority of his interment here, mentioned by the Abbey Chronicle. It has been doubted, because he has been also said to have been buried at Dublin and at Gloucester.

The term may have been used from celebration of the funeral service in those churches, from respect or benefactions. Thus Queen Elizabeth was buried, and a picture of her tomb placed in numerous churches.* The custom was continued at least till the last century, even with respect to Clergymen who held two livings, the burial service being performed in both their churches, and entries made accordingly in the Registers.†

This of Tintern is by the style of the armour, undoubtedly of the 12th century, and therefore most probably refers to Gilbert Strongbow. The rude sculpture of the hand has given rise to an opinion that he had five fingers.

The third effigy is that of a Saint, wrongly called an Abbot, though under a niche. It is in

* Fuller's Church History, Cent. xvii. p. 5. See too Strype's Stowe and Maitland. † Thus concerning the Author's Great Grandfather, who was Rector of Acton Scott, and Vicar of Diddlebury, county Salop, who died in 1726, there are burial entries in the Registers of both Parishes.

bas relief, lying upon bars : and seems to allude to that passage of the Golden Legend,† in the Life of St. Laurence, where Decyan says “ brynge hyder a bedde of iron yt Laurence contymax may lie thereon,” which bed has been converted into a gridiron, as the symbol of that saint.

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STAGE FIFTH,

*Tintern Abbey to Chepstow.*

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Right Bank.

FIRST, NEVETT'S—SECOND, WINDCLIFF—THIRD
LOVER'S LEAP—FOURTH, PIERSFIELD WALKS
—FIFTH, TWELVE APOSTLES—SIXTH, CHEP-
STOW CASTLE.

Left Bank.

FIRST, BANKAGOR CRAGS—SECOND, FRYER'S
ROCKS—THIRD, LANCAUT—FOURTH, PIERS-
FIELD BAY—FIFTH, TIDDENHAM ROCKS—
SIXTH, TUTSHILL.

Mr. Gilpin says, “ The country about Tintern abbey hath been described as a solitary, tranquil silence ; but its immediate environs only are meant. Within half a mile of it, are carried on great iron-works, which introduce noise and bustle into these regions of tranquillity.”

† Fol. cxxxv Ed. 1503.

“ The ground about these works appears from the river to consist of grand woody hills, sweeping and intersecting each other in elegant lines. They are a continuation of the same kind of landscape as that about Tintern-abbey, and are fully equal to it.”

“ As we still descend the river, the same scenery continues : the banks are equally steep, winding, and woody ; and in some parts diversified by prominent rocks, and ground finely broken and adorned.”

“ But one great disadvantage began here to invade us. Hitherto the river had been clear and splendid ; reflecting the several objects on its banks. But its waters now became buzzy and discoloured. Sludgy shores too appeared on each side ; and other symptoms which discovered the influence of a tide.” Thus Gilpin.

The ground of the right bank of the river, on which stands *Abbey Tintern, Windcliff, Piersfield, and Chepstow Castle*, consists of an indented or scalloped outline, forming bays and promontories. The foundation or base of this outline, is a hollow horse-shoe concavity, like that of a Greek Theatre, but infinitely larger, in the middle of which is a gentle elevation. In short take the capital letter S and join on to it at the lower curve, a capital C with the arch upper-

most, or make a serpentine line and join to it at the bottom a convex semicircle; Windcliff will then be at the top of the letter S, or line, and Tintern Abbey in the middle of C, or the semicircle.

The taste displayed in the situation of the Abbey is conspicuous, for it would have been buried, had the area been flat, by the immense height of the surrounding sylvan amphitheatre, and its parts would have appeared diminutive; but, as it is, nature and art assist each other. The fore-ground is not naturally poor, and is further gloriously enriched by the ruin. The river, after skirting the Abbey sideways, turns short to the right, and from hence commences a new character of Wye Scenery: the leading feature is precipice, in all its massy grandeur, relieved in places, but partially by wood. The height is tremendous; the acclivities often such as not to be stood upon; occasionally undermined by the river, which thus runs under an arch, and the outlines, ridges intercepting each other, or lapping over. The winding water-course makes promontories of the shore, first on one side, then on the other. Soon after leaving the abbey, the long line of Bannagor Crag forms a perpendicular rampart on the left, wholly bare, except where a few shrubs spring from the crevices, or fringe their summits; on the opposite side, the river is skirted by narrow slips of rich

pasture, rising into wooded acclivities, on which towers the Windcliff, a perpendicular mass of rock overhung with thickets. The river base of Windcliff is at a house called Nevett's. The ground rises in steps. On the edge of the water are narrow slips of pasture in a convex form, winding round a steep bank of rock and thicket. Above this is a flat plateau of table-ground divided into fields with a good house in the centre. Behind rises Windcliff, a Giant with a hairy skin of wood, and a head with enormous teeth of rock, accompanied with other hilly Polyphemuses of inferior terror of character. This is the first of three peninsulas, and the scenery as viewed from Tiddenham Chase, is so wild and grand as to defy verbal description. It corrects the base of Windcliff, terraced and formal, but pleasingly unusual. From the boat the scene cannot equally be embraced in all its great features.

This wild spot terminates at Windcliff, which forms one extremity of the Piersfield amphitheatre. Fancy without vision cannot convey correct portraits of the most common objects of nature; and it is therefore better to say, that the bay of Piersfield presents a *panorama* of rock scenery and deep abyss; not simply grand, but dreadfully sublime; and that not by mere naked cliffs, as the Bullers of Buchan, but cloathed precipices of savage grandeur, like the terrific gorgeousness of the Indian warrior.

The particulars concerning Windcliff, Piersfield and Chepstow, which do not imply vision from the water, will be given in the next stage. It is therefore here sufficient to say, that the form of the double Bay from the promontory of Windcliff to that of Chepstow, is that of the letter B lengthways, with rude and jagged outlines: the straiter part being the rocks edging Tiddenham Chase, and the crooked side the ridge of Piersfield grounds, the walks of which are shelves, cut, except in one or two parts, round the upper rim of the precipice. This last is exceedingly high and steep, and hung with wood. The river winds closely under it, and at low water is a mere wide muddy ditch.

After doubling Windcliff, the boat enters an abyss hemmed in by the heights of Piersfield, on the right shore, and of Tiddenham on the left. In the centre is the second peninsula of *LANCAUT*, partly flat, partly a slope from Tiddenham Chase. The river encircles on the left, a farm of good meadows, with a house upon it, called *Lancaut Cottage*. The church is also to be seen. On the right, are twelve curious projecting rocks, bearing the names of the Apostles and a thirteenth denominated St. Peter's Thumb. They resemble the bastions of a Castle, and return a surprizing reverberation of sound. Of the *Lover's Leap*, mention will be made hereafter.

The next and last reach brings the Tourist into Piersfield Bay, and sight of Chepstow Castle, which lines a projecting ridge of rock, that forms the third isthmus. It stands upon the highest part of an immense perpendicular-sided crag. "This majestic remain say the Travellers, is highly interesting. The ancient Gothic entrance partly in ruins; the irregular breaks and prominences in the form of the building, are in many parts overgrown with large clumps of Ivy, and variegated shrubs; sometimes beautifully clustered among the fragments of the Castle, and again falling down and enriching the white and awful cliff below."* Thus they.

The grand feature of the view beyond that of other castles, is the commanding elevation of the mutilated keep, which assumes a very picturesque attitude, and gives a sublimity to the whole, that otherwise would look like a mere Town-wall, i. e. be too low, and in the ruined parts heapish.

The new iron bridge is elegant, light and airy, but introduces an inharmonious formality into the general scene. The old bridge of carpentry, on the Roman model, was a real curiosity; being a bridge mounted like a School-boy on stilts, in the attitude of going to walk.† Tiddenham rocks and Tutshill slope, on the left, are in fine accordance, as well as the fore-ground of crags.

* Nicholson, col. 1360. † A good view of it is given, by Kip, in Sir R. Atkyns's Gloucestershire.

STAGE SIXTH.

Chepstow to Windcliff.

FIRST, CHEPSTOW CASTLE, CHURCH, &c.—

SECOND, PIERSFIELD—THIRD, WINDCLIFF.

CHEPSTOW. Archdeacon Coxe says, that “he had seldom visited any town, whose picturesque situation surpasses that of Chepstow,” and Mr. Wyndham asserts that “the beauties are so uncommonly excellent, that the most exact critic in landscape, would scarcely wish to alter a position in the assemblage of woods, cliffs, ruins and water.”

The first object is the castle, lining the whole length of a projecting rock, and a very fine remain. Chepstow merely signifies market-place; but under the name of Estbrighoel or Striguil, the castle is mentioned in Doomsday book; and is said to have been built by William Fitzosborn, Earl of Hereford, killed in 1070, who erected it out of the ruins of the adjacent Caerwent, or *Venta Silurum*. Grose affirms it to have been the work of some of the Earls of Pembroke. The remains show, (as will soon appear) that the old castle was nearly all taken

down, and rebuilt in the 13th century.* The Duke of Beaufort holds it by descent from the Herberts.

Castles were built according to the form of the ground, that of Caerlaverock, being a triangle; and Chepstow castle, is a parellogram, upon a tongue of land, consisting of successive courts or baileys; flanked on the land side by an immense ditch, and the town walls; on the other side by the Wye.

The entrance is by a gateway with round towers, between them a machicollation. The former were considered necessary, like arms for the human body, to protect the entrance: and the latter was used for throwing down stones and torches upon the enemy, and water, if he should attempt to burn the Gates.† These last remain, and consist of planks, covered with iron plates, laid upon a strong lattice, and fastened by iron bolts. It was usual to case gates with iron or leather against fire.‡

Within one door is the original wicket, about three feet high, and only eighteen inches broad; and is cut out so as to leave a very high step. It is even smaller than a coach door. Grooves for a

* The Castle is mentioned in Collins's Peerage, ii. 30. vii, 466. Ed. 1761.

† Alberti de re edificat. 4to.

Par. 1512. fol. lv. a.

‡ Id. lv. b.

portcullis, and two large round funnels, appear in the arch, for pouring down melted lead and boiling water. On the left of the gate runs a wall, with a round tower and square stair-case turret at the corner. The whole aspect is feudally grand.

From this you enter the *second* court, as it is called, consisting entirely of the ancient offices and apartments of the modern keeper. On the right hand is *what is called* the hall, and kitchen; which have windows of the style of the 13th century, and stairs lead from it into the hall. It is a small room, a servants', not a castle hall. There was a cistern for rain water, and the pipe ran through the wall.

All this court was, in this, and most other castles of the æra, expressly devoted to the servants and garrison. Whoever has read the denominations and number of apartments, in ancient castles,* will also know, that antiquaries themselves cannot elucidate them all, much less ignorant *Cicerones*.

There are said to have been sixteen towers. A line of communication, i. e. a terraced walk, at least now, runs inside the outer wall, along the whole building, ascending by steps from tower to tower. In the old Norman keep, this gallery used, in like manner, to run under arches, round the

* See Leland's *Collectanea*, ii. 658.

whole inside. This being a 13th century castle, where the defence consisted of numerous towers, not one only, the line of communication was altered accordingly. Passing by the vain attempt to identify shells of apartments, not now to be appropriated, it is fit to proceed to the principal building, now called *the chapel*, but, in fact, the site of the first castle, and composed of part of it.

At Hedingham, in Essex, a Norman keep remains in high perfection.* Within the building are numerous arches, in stories over each other, with passages in the wall all round, and *across the middle* is one immense round arch, apparently to strengthen the roof, upon which, men and engines were placed. A curtain or partition thus divided the apartment into two. Now at Chepstow, upon one side of the chapel, we see half this immense arch walled up, showing, that the old fabric was much higher than the present; and outside the same wall are Roman bricks.

This then was a part of the old Norman castle, worked into a new building of the 13th century, and was only the middle of the old keep: for Saxon keeps, being on the very outward wall of the castle area,† the ancient building stood upon the edge of the rock over the Wye. A range of niches is seen within, ascribed to statues of the

* Engraved in Britton's Architectural Antiquities, v. iii. p. 27, 28.

† King's Munimenta Antiq. ii. 29.

twelve Apostles, but usual in Norman keeps, and called by presumption, seats for the guard, or attendants.—In castles, the chapel was, commonly not the most striking edifice; and as this beautiful remain has apartments above, there is every reason to think, (according to the author's opinion founded upon inspection) that the lower part was not a chapel, but the grand hall, of which a beautiful window, towards the Wye, was the oriel window.

In double or treble castles of the latter styles, the grand hall, as at Raglan, frequently formed the centre. The upper apartments were for visitors. The oriel window is beautiful, in the manifest style of the 13th century, having slender shafts of columns and rich capitals of foliage. It was rendered impervious to missile weapons by a terrace and wall, upon the very edge of the cliff, as at Goodrich.

In some accounts of the castle,* it is said, not by natives of our sister island, but certainly some of the Bull family, that *there is no trace of a fire place in the whole building, but that twenty-four chimneys remain, one of which is handsomely decorated on the outside, and glazed within to prevent the accumulation of soot.* Now in one of the towers, *which has a fire place* of the flat arch of the last Gothic æra, was imprisoned Henry Martin, a

* Nicholson, col. 364, 305.

Regicide, who signed the warrant for the murder of Charles I. but being too contemptible to be dangerous, his life was spared upon condition of perpetual confinement, or rather surveillance.

Chalmers says, that he was "only a parliamentary buffoon,"* and though party principles may explain the cause of the hospitality and friendship, which he found in this vicinity, it is certainly in bad taste to collect materials for his history. A Fool who sets up for a Rogue, only gets duped himself: and if he be a Fanatick also in any point, he is useful for others, who employ him, in order that in the event of ill success, he may suffer instead of themselves.†

Upon the view of the architecture of this castle, there is every reason to think, that it was rebuilt by Roger Bigod, about the same time with Tintern Abbey church. It underwent some partial alterations, in the end of the 15th century, probably by William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, who was deeply engaged in the wars of York and Lancaster.

Subterraneous passages were, says Alberti, to be annexed to Castles, for the purpose of sending

* Biograph. Diction. xviii. 502. † Only six of the Regicides suffered. The most cruel circumstance in the trial of them was, that several of the popular party sate as their judges, and doomed them to die, for that rebellion, to which they had incited them. Memoirs of James II. 154.

out messengers;* and Mr. Barber was here shown an under ground room, with a groined roof, excavated in the rock, and opening to the overhanging brow of the cliff.†

The town was very strongly walled, and the remains are considerable.

Here was a cell of the foreign abbey of Cormeilles as early as the reign of Stephen.‡ On the north side of the Chapel of this Priory, are Roman bricks.§ As to the ruins of it,

“The present parish Church, say the Travellers|| includes most of its remains, which form a curious specimen of early architecture. A Tower stood at the eastern end of the present building, which fell down. At the angles on the outside are several ancient clustered columns, which have supported one of the arches. Beyond this the choir extended. The entrance was by a semicircular arched door-way, ornamented with crenated, billeted, and other mouldings, resting on five short receding columns upon a side without pedestals, with simple uniform capitals. A similar decorated arch of smaller dimensions, springing from two collateral

* Alberti, fol. lxxv. That plagiarism may not be suspected, it is to be observed, that the quotations from Alberti, with many other interesting extracts concerning Castles were used by the Author in his review of Bayley's Tower of London—Gents. Magazine, 1821

† Nicholson, col. 367. ‡ Tanner's Notitia. § Gough's Camden. || Id. 368.

columns, is on each side the door-way; but is half obscured and disfigured by an external porch of which a view is given by Mr Cox.* The present nave seems to have been considerably larger. It is separated from the aisles by ranges of circular arches, resting upon massive piers. On the S. side of the Chancel, under a canopied monument, supported by eight Corinthian pillars, is a whole length figure of Henry, second Earl of Worcester."† Near Piersfield Lodge, are some remains of the Priory of St. Kynemark; near the Beaufort Arms, some ancient arched door-ways; under Fyde's long room, a vaulted cellar; and in Bridge-street, relics of two ancient religious edifices; one the chapel of St. Ann, used as a bark-house: the other adjoining Lewis's Arms-house. The old Gate has a rugged aspect, which may be denominated the "Pock-fretted Gothick" an appearance owing to the physical quality of the stone.

Upon the Gloucestershire shore of the Wye, lies Tiddenham. Here are intrenchments, probably Roman, and afterwards occupied by others. A chapel, dedicated to St. TECLA, appears in ruins. Her Legend says, that she was a Virgin and Martyr, who after her conversion by St. Paul, suffered under Nero at Iconium. But Jerom gives

* Tour p. 364. † Engr. in Sandford's genealogical History,

her a higher character. There was (he says) a very noble Roman lady, daughter of Marcellinus, a man of consular rank, and named Melania. She made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and from her shining virtues, received the name of *Tecla*." (from the Greek *Kalos*.)* Pilgrimages to the Holy Land, were so common among the Britons, that there is reason to think, this chapel marks the spot from whence they embarked. In this parish commences OFFA'S DIKE, or boundary between Wales and Mercia, which terminates at or near Flint.

The retrospective view on the road to BEACHLEY and the Old Passage House is rich; and that by the shore extensive, presenting the Forest of Dean, and country down to Robin-hood Hill, over Gloucester. Aust Cliff opposite is very grand.

PIERSFIELD.

The road to this celebrated spot, is that of the Turnpike to Monmouth. Near the remains of St. Kynmark's Priory, not far from Piersfield Lodge, are foundations of an old Chapel, which stood at the west end of a field called Upper Dean.

If the Tourist goes to these ruins along the Shire Newton road, and through the fields at the

* *Usseril Antiquitates*, p. 110.

back of a house called the Mount, he will enjoy a highly gratifying view of Chepstow and its environs.—The entrance to Piersfield is, by a superb Lodge, through usual, but fine park scenery. From hence a winding road leads on the left to the Seat, on the right to the extremity of the Walks; under Chepstow, whence the lounge begins.

Piersfield was long the property of the family of Walters; and in 1736 was sold to Col. Morris, of the Island of St. Vincent, father of VALENTINE MORRIS. In 1784 it was alienated to George Smith, Esq. of Burnhall, county Durham, and in 1794 to Sir Mark Wood, who completed the magnificent mansion, partly built by Mr. Smith. In 1803 it was sold to Nathaniel Wells, Esq. the present proprietor.*

Reed describes the house eloquently. It is characterised he says more by an elegant simplicity, than by princely magnificence. It is built with a light free stone. The library and dancing room constitute its two wings. The stair-case is ornamented with four pictures of most exquisite Tapestry, the production of a French Nunnery,† and the other apartments are decorated with furniture, paintings, and statuary of the most costly and excellent kind. The style of the building is

* Nicholson, 1062. † Others make it of the Gobelin Manufacture, and once the property of Louis xvi. The subjects are taken from the Natural History of Africa.

uncommonly fine, possessing considerable elevation and it is surrounded with extensive grounds, here rising into gentle swells, and there as gently sloping into vallies. §

Piersfield, so far as depends upon art, was the creation of Valentine Morris, whom the author of this sketch, from having visited when a boy, knows to have been a man of very elegant manners. Engaging in the rash attempt of removing the Morgans of Tredegar from the representation of the county, and being otherwise expensive, he was obliged to retire from Piersfield. At his last departure, he divided money among the poor assembled in the church-yard, shook each by the hand, and was followed to the Passage, by a procession of carriages.—The bells rung a muffled peal. He wept; and why he invited such a severe trial of his feelings at all, would not be easy to account for, in a man, who did not like himself, overvalue popularity. As governor of St. Vincent's he got into scrapes, (the published accounts of which the author knows to be inaccurate; and does not correct, because they only prove common evils, into which men who are involved, plunge themselves,) and became a prisoner in the king's bench, where he continued many years. In short he was very amiable, hospitable and charitable, with the common errors of a man of fashion.

Gilpin wrote in Mr. Morris's time; and he commenced his walk at the Windcliff end, and Archdeacon Coxe at St. Arvan's just by it.

Mr. Gilpin says, " Mr. Morris's improvements at Piersfield, which we soon approached, are generally thought as much worth a traveller's notice as any thing on the banks of the Wye. We pushed on shore close under his rocks; and the tide being at ebb, we landed with some difficulty on an oozy beach. One of our bargemen, who knew the place, served as a guide; and under his conduct we climbed the steep, (apparently Windcliff,) by an easy, regular zig-zag."

" The eminence on which we stood (one of these grand eminences which overlook the Wye) is an intermixture of rock and wood, and forms in this place, a concave semicircle, sweeping round in a segment of two miles. The river winds under it; and the scenery, of course, is shewn in various directions. The river itself, indeed, as we just observed, is charged with the impurities of the soil it washes; and when it ebbs its verdant banks become slopes of mud: but if we except these disadvantages, the situation of Piersfield is noble."

" Little indeed was left for improvement, but to open walks and views through the woods to the various objects around them; to those chiefly of the eminence on which we stood. All this the in-

genious proprietor hath done with great judgment ; and hath shewn his rocks, his woods, and his precipices, under various forms, and to great advantage. Sometimes a broad face of rock is presented, stretching along a vast space, like the walls of a citadel. Sometimes it is broken by intervening trees. In other parts the rocks rise above the woods ; a little farther they sink below them : sometimes they are seen through them ; and sometimes one series of rocks appears rising above another : and though many of these objects are repeatedly seen, yet seen from different stations, and with new accompaniments, they appear new. The winding of the precipice is the magical secret by which all these enchanting scenes are produced."

" We cannot, however call these views picturesque.—They are either presented from too high a point, or they have little to mark them as characteristic : or they do not fall into such composition as would appear to advantage on canvass. But they are extremely romantic, and give a loose to the most pleasing riot of imagination."

" These views are chiefly shewn from different stands in a close walk carried along the brow of the precipice.—It would be invidious perhaps to remark a degree of tediousness in this walk, and too much sameness in many of its parts, notwithstanding the general variety which enlivens them ; but the

intention probably is not yet complete ; and many things are meant to be hid, which are now too profusely shewn.”*

“ Having seen every thing on this side of the hill, we found we had seen only half the beauties of Piersfield, and pursued a walk which led us over the ridge of the eminence to the opposite side. Here the ground depositing its wild appearance, assumes a more civilized form. It consists of a great variety of lawns, intermixed with wood and rocks ; and, though it often rises and falls, yet it descends without any violence into the country beyond it.”

“ The views on this side are not the romantic steepes of the Wye ; but though of another species, they are equally grand. They are chiefly distances consisting of the vast waters of the Severn ; here an arm of the sea, bounded by a remote country ; of the mouth of the Wye entering the Severn ; and of the town of Chepstow, and its castle and abbey. Of all these distant objects an admirable use is made ; and they are shewn, (as the rocks of the Wye were on the other side,) sometimes in parts, and sometimes all together. In one station we had the scenery of both sides of the hill at once.”

* As it is many years since these remarks were made several alterations have probably, since that time taken place,

"It is a pity the ingenious embellisher of these scenes could not have been satisfied with the grand beauties of nature which he commanded. The Shrubberies he has introduced in this part of his improvements, I fear will rather be esteemed paltry. As the embellishments of a house, or as the ornament of little scenes which have nothing better to recommend them, a few flowering shrubs artfully composed may have their elegance and beauty: but in scenes like this, they are only splendid patches, which injure the grandeur and simplicity of the whole."

—Fortasse cupressum

Scis simulare: quid hoc?—

—Sit quidvis simplex duntaxat et unum.

"It is not the shrub which offends; it is the *formal introduction* of it. Wild underwood may be an appendage of the grandest scene; it is a beautiful appendage. A bed of violets or lilies may enamel the ground with propriety at the root of an oak; but if you introduce them artificially in a border, you introduce a trifling formality, and disgrace the noble object you wish to adorn." Thus Gilpin.

Archdeacon Coxe remarks: "that the walk is carried through a thick mantle of forests, with occasional openings, which seem not the result of art or design, but the effect of chance or nature. This bowery walk is consonant to the genius of

Piersfield; the screen of wood prevents the uniformity of a bird's-eye view, and the imperceptible bend of the amphitheatre conveys the spectator from one part of this fairy region to another, without discovering the gradations. Hence the Wye is sometimes concealed or half-obsured by overhanging foliage; at others, wholly expanding in view, is seen sweeping beneath a broad and circuitous channel; hence at one place, the Severn spreads in the midst of a boundless expanse of country, and on the opposite side of the Wye; at another, both rivers appear on the same side, and *the Severn seems supported on the level summit of the Cliffs, which form the banks of the Wye.* Hence the same objects present themselves in different aspects, and with varied accompaniments; hence the magic transition from the impervious gloom of the forest to open groves; from meadows and lawns to rocks and precipices, and from the mild beauties of English Landscape, to the wildness of Alpine Scenery."

...The Author commenced his walk as usual, at the Chepstow end, and was guided successively to the various points of view, thus denominated.

First the ALCOVE.—Second, the PLATFORM.

The objects seen from hence would be alone amply sufficient for any other spot: but here they operated injuriously, in the eye of the Author, by

a bad anticipation. The Town and Castle are too near, for objects so large and bold, seen from an opposite level; not from below, or in bird's eye; but he begs not to be misunderstood. He only means, that here inferiority of view is injudiciously brought into notice, not that any thing is or can be bad at Piersfield.

Third The GROTTO.

Here a picture is presented in the happiest state of composition. In this charming view, a diversified plantation occupies the fore-ground, and descends through a grand hollow to the river, which passes in a long reach under the elevated ruins of Chepstow Castle, the Town, and Bridge, towards the Severn. Rocks and Precipices, dark shelving forests, groves, and lawns, hang on its course, and with a variety of sailing vessels, are reflected from the liquid mirror, with an effect, at which, says Barber, the magic pencil of Claude would falter. The distant Severn and its remote shores form an excellent termination and complete the picture.*

Fourth Above PIERS-WOOD.

Between here and the Grotto, says Barber, there is something which one would wish added or removed.

Fifth The DOUBLE VIEW.

This is the most admired, and is so called because on one side you have a fine prospect across

the park on the land side into Monmouthshire, and on the other, over the Wye, Severn, and Gloucestershire. It is owing to a superior eminence of ground. The different scenes which have presented themselves in detail, here appear in one comprehensive range. The field of prospect is much more extensive and beautifully picturesque. The mazy Wye, with all its interesting accompaniments, passes from beneath us, through a richly variegated country, to its junction with the Severn, beyond which silvery expanse, the grand swelling shores of Somersetshire form the distance. A curious *deceptio visus* occurs here. It proceeds from a coincidence in the angle of vision, between the opposite rocks, and a part of the Severn, which appears to wash their summit, although it is many miles distant.

Sixth The HALF-WAY SEAT, under a large Beech Tree.

Seventh The GIANTS CAVE,

Is a passage cut through a rock. Over one of the entrances is a mutilated colossal figure, which once sustained the fragment of a rock in his uplifted arms, threatening to overwhelm him who dared to enter his retreat; but some time since, the stone fell, carrying the giant's arms along with it; and it would have been as well if it had taken off the rest of the figure. To place it there at all was *mauvais gout*, mere *concetto*, "a tiny

idea, unworthy Piersfield, and exactly the converse of the excellent taste, which has preserved unclipped the aged laurel of wondrously grand effect. From the Giant's Cave a path traced under the wood, descends to the Bath, a commodious building, concealed from outward view by impending foliage.

Eighth. a Seat near two Beeches, on the edge of the Precipice.

Ninth. The LOVER'S LEAP,

So named from the Leucadian promontory, whence despairing lovers, and among them Sappho, precipitated themselves. It is the edge of a perpendicular cliff, overlooking a tremendous abyss, clothed with underwood, which at the bottom looks as fine as a spider's web, and is enveloped in mist.*

A taste for scenery is of the first moment, as to the civilization, wealth, and glory of any country; and every respect is due to Morris the author, and the succeeding liberal proprietors of Piersfield, who gratify the public with a view of its exquisite natural glories; but nothing human is without imperfection. It is no fault of any one, because

* Early this year (1822) owing to the previous rainy season, about three acres of that part of the Marbridge Wood, which lies between the Lover's Leap and the Cold Bath, have slid down towards the river, carrying with them some fir trees, the underwood, and some rocks. *Gent's Magazine*, March 1822. p. 267.

the ground is extensive, that the walk is too long, and should have been a ride; and also that it should perhaps have commenced at the Grotto, and without dispute, have terminated at Windcliff, decorated in the manner hereafter mentioned. Perhaps also the views are too numerous, and thus forestall each other, to little purpose, merely for the sake of rocks opposite, which are stiff and marine, formal and bare; and for the range over *Lancut*, in itself only a common-place farm. The Author in his peregrination was not *strongly impressed* at any seats, but those of the Grotto, and Double View, neither of which are anticipated. Piersfield is a grand sublime whole; but included in one *coup d'œil*, through the elevation of the spectator, and there is little or no variety of scene in succession on the opposite bank, which almost wholly consists of similar rocks, whose identity is not broken by woody, or other interventions; and after all, as to the chief view, no spot can possibly equal Windcliff. Let those Tourists therefore, who are bad trampers, content themselves, with the Grotto, and Double View, but a short walk from each other. To Windcliff, they can ride.

WINDCLIFF.

What a Cathedral is among Churches, Windcliff is among Prospects: and if, like Snowdon, it ought to be visited at sun-rise, or be seen through a

sun-rise glass;* should not the sentiments felt from the view, be similar to those of the following grand apostrophé: for what is admiration of scenery without homage to the Omnipotent, but the cold approbation of the Mechanic, who thinks professionally, and is void of sentiment?

Upon Windcliff the scene described may be enjoyed in high perfection. "The morning sun rose bright and clear from the distant ocean. A gorgeous crimson glowed on the eastern sky, deepening towards the horizon, and blending its gradually pale hue with the light azure of the mid-heaven. Spiry points of deep red studded the undulating clouds, scintillating like Meteors aptly picturing the first flashes of fiery light, which flamed at the command of the most High, from the gloomy bosom of Chaos. All nature blushed in that orient light. It imbibed the hue descending from the Heaven of Heavens. The water sparkled, as it received the first kiss of the rosy morn: it was the eye of a lover kindling beneath the glance of his beloved. The trees waved in the early breeze; it was the salutation of a friend greeting with kindly welcome the return of some dear one. Awakened to the conviction and the

* The Author uses and recommends a well-known small yellow pocket glass, called a *Claude*, which gives a sun-rise view at full-day, without the obscuration of the morning mist.

enjoyment of a new existence, the whole pulse of animated creation, throbbed rapturously. It was the preeminent sensation of invigorated intellect.. It was the winning of another day from death. *Reclining on the summit of an eminence*, he felt how multitudinous was the society of that unpeopled solitude. He enjoyed the communion which he held with the universe. He loved to cope with nature; to hold intercourse with the ancient mother of an infinitely numerous offspring; to collect from her more truths, than tradition ever treasured, than record ever presented to the view of man. He marked the gradual progress of light; and he recalled the education which had been bestowed on the human race, a preparation for their reception of the revelation of the divine will. Every thing breathed instruction; the world teemed with evidences of the truth of God. If ever eternity and infinitude were within the grasp of the comprehension of man, it was in such a scene.* Similar scenes are described with equal felicity by Lord Byron, but there is such a mixture of Devil and Angel in his sentiments, that a feeling of pain accompanies the perusal. The heart is conscious, that such cannot be the homage due to the Creator.

Windcliff is the last grand scene of the Piersfield sublime Drama, and should have been in-

* The Priest [an excellent Novel] i. p. 186. seq.

cluded in the grounds. If an opinion *must* be given concerning the hack question, "which is the grandest scene on the Wye" the answer *must* be, "the Prospect from Windcliff." It is not only magnificent, but it is so novel, that it excites an involuntary start of astonishment, and so sublime that it elevates the mind into instantaneous rapture. Its parts consist in a most uncommon combination of wood, rock, water, sky, and plain; of height, and abyss, of rough and smooth, of recess and projection, of fine landscape anear, and exquisite perspective afar, all melting into each other, and grouping in such capricious lines, that although it may find a counterpart in the tropical climes, it is, as to England, probably unique. It is unlikely that the mouths of two rivers should be so adjacent or so arranged as to form a similar scene, though a thousand views of sea, vale, and rock, may be of corresponding character, with only slight differences of surface. But the ground here is singular; and the features not being English, the physiognomy is of course, such as cannot be expected elsewhere. It also improves both upon our natural and foreign landscape; upon the former, because our scenery is not so fine as the foreign, which Windcliff resembles: upon the latter, because according to the observation of Humboldt, it has not that, "something strange and sad, which accompanies aspects of animated nature, in which man is nothing."

The spectator stands upon the edge of a precipice, the depth of which is most awful, and the river winds at his feet. The right side-screen is Piersfield ridge, richly wooded; the left, is a belt of rocks, over which appear the Severn, and the fine shores between Thornbury and Bristol, rising behind each other in admirable swells, which unite in most graceful curves. The first foreground is to the eye, a view from the clouds upon earth, and the rich contrast of green meadows to wild forest scenery; the farm of Lancut, clasped in the arms of the winding river, backed by hanging wood and rock.^c Thus there is a bay of verdure, walled in by nature's colossal fences, wood, hill, and rock. The further horn of the crescent, tapers off into a craggy informal mole, over which the eye passes to the second Bay. This terminates in Chepstow Castle, the town, and rocks beyond, all mellowed down, by distance into that fine hazy indistinctness, which makes even deformities combine in harmony with the picture. In the middle distance, the widening sea spreads itself, and from it the shores of Somerset and Monmouth shires steal away into the horizon. Lastly, all this union of large and bold objects, from being comprized within a circumference of a very few miles, unites the Landscape and the Prospect, together with the Forest and the Park character of unimpeded expanse, for the enclosures are few in any part, and by distance are almost

diminished into imperceptible streaks. Thus the reproach of mappishness, does not attach to this exalted exhibition of the divine taste.

“ There is, says Reed, an eminence called WINDCLIFF, which I had frequently heard of, and was very anxious to visit. I found my way thither through a plantation of firs, that crowns the summit, at the end of which a landscape of such transcendant beauty and magnificence opened before me, as cast a sort of shade on every former scene within my observation. I felt as if I had been conducted to the spot by the hand of some invisible agent, to contemplate the regions of enchantment, or the garden of Elysium! It embraces a thousand picturesque objects; yet as a whole it is not picturesque, but possesses something of a superior kind, that cannot be easily described. The man of taste would even gaze upon it with rapture and astonishment; but he would never think for a moment of sketching its likeness on canvas; he knows that his labours would be in vain. The scene is of too variegated, too immense, and too resplendent a character, to receive any just delineation from either the pencil of the painter, or the inspiration of the poet.”

But might not the proprietor of this imperial domain have built a Temple on Windcliff, consecrating it to the Genius of the place? He might have done so, but in forbearing the attempt he has

done better. The precipice itself is a temple, which the "worshippers of nature" will always approach with "unsandaled foot" considering the embellishments of Art, as a profanation of her sacred grandeur.

Other writers, upon reaching Windcliff, clap their wings and crow away in similar exultation.

That Windcliff is degraded by being a mere nursery of pakty firs, which the power of the wind at such an elevation will spoil, and would gain nothing by a summer-house baby temple, is manifest. But a few high and massy Doric Columns with Architraves, however rude, would have the grand effect of the ruins of the Temple of Minerva upon the Sunian Promontory; and as the pillars would not require fluting, and materials are adjacent, the expence might be moderate. A portion of the Visitor's contributions for seeing the grounds, might soon repay the cost, with a permanent rent afterwards. The mimick ruin might be set off by partial immersion in wood, and roomy niches might be hellowed out in the rock, at points of view, and be properly railed round, to prevent danger. The finest of these might contain a tablet, inscribed in the simple taste of the Greek Epitaph.

VALENTINE MORRIS,

Introduced these sublime Scenes

TO PUBLIC NOTICE.

TO HIM BE HONOUR, TO GOD PRAISE.

LAND TOUR.

WHOWER has read the Scotch Novels, will recollect the Cake Shop on the Lakes, so much frequented by Poets and Artists; and the hearty execration of them by a neighbouring Gentleman, because they might possibly convey love-letters to a handsome girl under his guardianship. Clever fellows are however entitled to regard as well as rich ones; and, during summer and autumn, they poke about the Wye, like snipes and woodcocks, and after rammaging every thing, reemigrate to London. For the use of them, and others who travel singly, and therefore will not incur the expence of a boat, the following route and observations are given; but the pure orthodox Scenist will recollect that such a tour is not the epicure's meal; for the spectator on either bank, loses the effect of that side on which he stands, through not being in the middle of the stream; and being more elevated, sees what he does behold, not to its full advantage.

A sturdy pedestrian will of course follow the banks of the river down to Tintern Abbey, and

thence diverge to Windcliff and Chepstow, as, upon the whole, if he be pressed for time, the best substitute for the Aquatic Excursion. But Ponyists and other Horsemen, will not be able to adopt the same plan, and therefore may pursue another route, which will partially repay them for their loss of the continuous Tour, by various fine prospects, and some curious antiquities.

FIRST TOUR.

Ross to Monmouth.

Pass Wilton Bridge, and proceed to Pencraig. It is placed at a sudden turn of the river, in order to catch a fine view of Ross, mellowed by distance. This is in excellent taste; for roofs of houses and unequal heights of buildings are mere portraits of uninteresting objects, and scarcely distinguish one town from another. By distance you sink the disagreeable, bring in the adjacent country, mask the town with a pleasing haze, and convert the whole to a landscape, in which, if the view be taken from a right spot, the leading characteristic

immediately designates the particular town, in discrimination from others.

In other respects the landscape is uncommonly fine. It presents from an eminence, the river meandering along the vale, the enchanting windings of which are dignified by the stately appearance of Goodrich Castle on the right. The variety and extent of hill, vale, wood, and water, which compose this view, baffle description. Here the Tourist should descend to the towing-path, in order to catch the fine view of the castle, described in the water tour. After exploring that august ruin, he may proceed to Huntsholm Ferry, and crossing the river, go from thence to Symond's Yat, where he will, at the same time, view Coldwell rocks, and the New Weir. His route from thence is along the ridge above High-meadow Woods, to Staunton and the Buckstone. From thence he will have a most superb bird's eye view of the river and its accompaniments, from the New Weir to Newland. From the Buckstone the road runs to the Kymin, and so to Monmouth. This whole tour, including a return to Ross, is a journey of from twenty to thirty miles.

Those, whose time will permit, may visit Coppet Wood Hill, the summit of the Little Doward, whence Monmouth bridge, and the river

appear in fine effect, Round-tree-field, Penyard-Castle, &c. which command the Malvern Hills, upon the North Eastern side of the country, and the rocky ridges about and beyond Cheltenham.

SECOND TOUR.

Monmouth to Chepstow.

The line by turnpike is to Tintern Abbey direct. Upon Lydett Hill above Monmouth, is a most sublime prospect, before mentioned, of the Town and vale. At Trelleck are to be seen the antiquities mentioned in another place. From thence the road turns short to the left, and after crossing Trelleck Common, (a dose of physic to the lover of the picturesque, from its miserable dullness) it enters a rich descent, a fine prologue to the Tintern Scenery in front, where the road terminates at the distance of nine and a half miles from Monmouth.—From Tintern to Windcliff, two miles; and from thence through St. Arvan's to Chepstow, about three more.

It is plain, that this Tour by turnpike, loses too much, viz. several miles of the river line be-

tween Monmouth and Tintern. As the banks however are in the greatest perfection on the Monmouthshire side, it may be recommended to return by the Gloucestershire road, from Chepstow to Goleford. The Turnpike on Tiddenharn Chase commands Piersfield down to Nevett's, below which it turns to the right, and forsakes the river. From thence therefore it will be advisable by means of a Guide, to pursue the best bye road possible to be obtained, for a sight of Ilandogo and the western banks, through the villages of Hewelsfield and St. Briavels to Newland, just by Monmouth.—The Tourist may however, at first start, chuse to avoid the Turnpike to Tintern, and take the bye roads from Penalt, and the other villages; but the best mode of making either of the excursions mentioned must be learned at Monmouth or Chepstow, for the Author has never travelled in such directions.

Every elevated spot near the banks of the Wye, must from the nature of the ground, furnish either a Landscape or a Prospect, and enumeration would be endless.

A Gentleman, travelling from Tintern to Ilandogo (four miles) wandered along the unsheltered brow of Cabbaddic mountains, and while gazing at the village of *Brookweir*, on the opposite bank of the Wye, found himself surrounded on all sides by a thick wood. The path thence, taking a winding

course, down an uneven bank, led him from the wood to the scattered cottages, which form the hamlet of Llandogo. He then directed his steps towards Monmouth, by quitting for awhile the banks of the Wye. Leaving the beaten track, he ascended the craggy brow of a steep mountain; whence he beheld an extensive tract of country, with the Wye meandering beneath, through rich meadows and corn fields. The steepness of the precipice amazed and terrified him. Advancing a few paces, he looked over a tremendous chasm, overhung by trunks of trees, while water rushing over the rocks below, added much to the horror of the place.*

Desultory rambles, like these, may furnish very interesting subjects for the pencil; and the Author has seen an elegant girl, seated, with her legs hanging over a precipice, as deeply absorbed in sketching, as she would be in letter-writing to or about her intended. He has also seen women stand fearlessly upon the brow of Windcliff. These are strong proofs of the effect of scenery, which can overcome the sensitive irritability of female timidity.

* Nicholson, col. 1298.

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PART SECOND.

Historical Department.

*Banks of the Wye,*

AFTER the final conquest of the Silures by the Romans, the Country on the banks of the *Wye*,\* formed part of the province of *Britannia Secunda*, under the government of a President, residing at Caerleon. When the Britons resumed their independence in the time of Honorius and Constantius, a king, named *Caradock*, reigned in those parts,† and other Commanders of the same common name, fought with Offa and Harold.§ These facts lead to some inferences, concerning a Mansion still called *Craddock*, about two miles from Perry-

\* The river *Wye*, is a Pleonasm, *Wye* meaning in Welch, *river*, and oddly enough, in English *Wine*. Higden translates the lines XV. Scriptor. 188.

*Vinum potant precipuum,  
Quanto sit magis rubeum.*

by

"Ever the redder is the *Wye*,  
They holde it the more *fy*."

See Dibdin's *Typograph. Antiq.* i. 147. *Wye* might be supposed an error of the press, for *wyne*, were there not a capital letter, and the rhyme *fy*.

† Turner's *Anglo Saxons*, p. 133. 136. §. Nicholson 436. 1100. Script. p. Bed. 236.

stone, from which it is separated by the Wye. Legendary accounts have assigned it to one of the Knights of Arthur's Round Table, called "*Cradock Vreich Fras*," which signifies the fat arm. He is said to have been a Prince between Wye and Severn, who married a daughter of Pallinor, Prince of South Wales, a Lady whose chastity was proved by trying on a curious mantle, which shrunk up if the female was not virtuous. Tintern was certainly one Royal palace on the Wye. This Cradock may have been another. Palaces meant places of short residence, because the kings would not burden the neighbourhood, on account of their procurations, by a long stay,\* and King Caradock, might have resided here. But except foundations of rude stones, the Palaces of the British Kings, merely consisted of basket work, or wattled twigs, distinguished only from those† of their subjects by being barked. From the life of Dubricius, there appear to have been various petty Kings, in these districts.

However this be, notwithstanding the cultivated lands and open country adjacent to the stations, the romantic banks of the Wye, soon after the departure of the Romans, formed in the greater part, a wilderness occupied by Hermits and other Solitaries. Dubricius established a grand college

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\* Ducange Gloss. v. Palatium. † So that of Howell Dha, and confirmed by William of Malmesbury. See Sammes p. 213.

between Ross and Hereford; and in his time, Samson, an eminent prelate, placed some other religious, in a desert near the severn, (doubtless, the Forest of Dean) and long resided himself in a certain very secret cave in the interior.\* At Tintern, a retired Monarch, lived in holy seclusion|| and the parochial appellations, St. Briavel, (St. Breualais) St. Weonards, as well as the prefix of *Llan* to *Llandogo*, and *Llancaut*, allude to the same æra and state of things: a state naturally growing out of the perturbed state of society at the dissolution of the Roman Empire, when pacific existence could be obtained or secured only by seclusion.

In the year 597, Ceolwulf began to reign over the West Saxons, and being during life, engaged in warfare, attacked the Britons at Tintern, but was defeated. On or about this time, the large and powerful kingdom of Mercia was formed; and in the year 738, Ethelbald King of that extensive portion of the Heptarchy, in order to annex the pleasant region between the Severn and the Wye, to his territories, entered Wales with a powerful army. At Carno, a mountain in Monmouthshire, the Britons checked his progress, and drove him over the Wye with great loss. In 743 he marched in conjunction with Cuthred, who had succeeded

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\* Usserii Antiquitat. Brit. Eccles. p. 277: || See Tintern hereafter.



Æthelheard in Wessex, another army against the Britons. Through great superiority of force they obtained a decisive victory at Ddefawdon, [between *Trellock* and *Chepstow*] but only retired with plunder. To Ethelwald succeeded Offa. His wars with the Britons were at first to his disadvantage. Some branches of the [Cymry] Welch, penetrated by an incursion into Mercia. Their united attack drove the English from the Severn. They frequently repeated their devastations. Offa collected in greater number, the forces of the Anglo Saxons, and marched into Wales. The Britons unable to withstand him, quitted the open-country between the Severn and the Wye, and withdrew to their mountains. Impregnable among these natural fortresses, they awaited the return of the invaders, and then sallied out in new aggressions. To terminate these wasteful incursions, Offa annexed the eastern regions of Wales, as far as the Wye to Mercia, planted them with Anglo Saxons, and separated them from the Britons by a high vallum between two ditches,\* named from him *Claudh Offa*, or *Offa's Dyke*, though not a foss. It extended from the Estuary of the Dee, to the mouth of the Wye; and the occupation of the eastern banks by the Colonists of Offa, is attested according to Llyud, by the names of places terminating

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\* Gough's Camden, ii. 467. Part of it forms the turnpike road between Ruabon and Wrexham.

in *ton* or *ham*.\* Watt's Dyke runs nearly in a direction with Offa's, but at unequal distances, from 5, or 600 yards to three miles.† The space between the two was considered as neutral ground, where the Britons and Saxons might meet for commercial purposes, but notwithstanding the severe law of Egbert, which announced death to every Welchman, who passed the rampart, and of Harold Harefoot, who softened the punishment to amputation of the right hand, the descendants of the Silures, with the contumacious spirit of their ancestors, frequently, upon the Celtic principle of Black-mail, crossed the line in the night, to drive the cattle over the boundary.‡ In prevention of these ravages, Mr. Pennant observes, that there are numerous artificial mounts, the site of small forts, in many places along its course.

In this Anglo-Saxon æra the Wye, at Chepstow, separated Wales from England,§ on the south; and it was made beyond Hereford, by Athelstan, the boundary of the North Welch.|| Harold, by his massacres, so depopulated the country, that says Giraldus Cambrensis,¶ he scarcely left a male alive; a cruel policy before practised by Offa, who spared females only, that future aggression might be suppressed, at least enfeebled. Through

\* Turner's Anglo Saxons, i. 408, 421, 422. † Both these Dykes are accurately delineated in Evans's Map of N. Wales and Smith's two sheet Map. ‡ Nicholson, 383, 456. § xv Scriptores, 194. || W. Malmesb. Scriptor. p. Bed. fol. 23. ¶ Angl. Sacr. ii. 451.

this treasure of Harold, the three first Norman Kings were undisturbed; and the country was easily held in subjugation, by granting parcels of it to various military adventurers, who could acquire them by negotiation or force. From this period, we must date the remains, at least in the greater part, of the Castles on the Wye.

The first of these is WILTON. Anglo Saxon forts were chiefly mounds; but though it is not improbable, that the ferry here had some protection, it appears, that the present Castle was built by King Stephen, in 1141,\* and it is mentioned together with Chapetow and Godrich, by Giraldus Cambrensis. Henry de Longo Campo, or Long Champ, held it 12. Henry ii. a. 1165,† and Maud daughter and heir of Henry, carried it in marriage to Reginald Grey,‡ ancestor of the Lords Grey de Wilton, in which family it remained till the 16th century. William Lord Grey de Wilton had been taken prisoner in defending Calais, and having long solicited in vain to be redeemed at the public charge, which he well deserved, was at last obliged to sell most of his estates for that purpose. Accordingly in 1578, Lord Gilbert Talbot, then resident at Godrich Castle, offered for Wilton, and its annexations 20000, that as he writes to his father, “besyde

\* Leland's Collect. iii. 385. † Hearne's Lib. Nig. i. 169. ‡ Collin's tit. Grey. Ed. 1756.

the benefyte therof, he myghte be able to attende on his Lordshipe with a thousande, tall followes, to follow his Lordshipe's directions, if he shoulde have neede to comaunde him."\* He writes most unfortunately, but it does not appear that he succeeded, for Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Grey de Wilton (which Elizabeth died Dec. 29, 1559) was wife of Lord Chandos,† whose second son Charles, resided here, as well as his posterity, down to James the magnificent Duke, who built Cannons. In consequence of some political disappointments, with regard to local influence, the estate was sold from pique, to the Governors of Guy's Hospital;‡

The S. W. Tower seems to have undergone little or no change, when the building was altered to its present form, which is in the style of Hurstmonceaux and other castellated mansions of the fifteenth century.

The following old story is told of the Lords of Wilton and Acornbury. They were cousins, and addressed the same lady: she preferred the Lord of Wilton; and his enraged rival assembled his vassals and fired this castle. A few years ago a burnt beam was shown in commemoration of this incident:§ —

The Bridge was built in the reign of Eliza-

\* Private Communication. † Dugdale's *St. Paul's*, p. 79, Ed. Ellis. ‡ Heath, 56. § Inform. Mr. T. Jenkins.

beth.\* During the Civil War, a party of the Rebels from Gloucester, Horse and Foot, arrived with two pieces of ordnance, at the Bridge, and found it guarded by Capt. Cassie, and thirty musketeers from Godridge Castle. A part of the Horse advanced upon the Guard, forced the River, and got beyond them; after some dispute beat them off, wounded and took the Captain, slew many of his men, and took the rest in the chase almost up to the Castle [of Godrich].†

Some short time after, Massie, the Governor of Gloucester, marching to the relief of Pembridge Castle, passed through Ross, but found the Bridge broken down, and the river made impassable, by the sinking of boats on the other side, and a guard of Horse to defend it. Here was a dispute for two days, and Massie's object failed.‡

The next object in progress is GODRICH CASTLE. The junctions of the courses in the masonry, show that the castle, before the addition of the round towers, merely consisted of the keep, with low annexed buildings in the house form; whose point ends or gables, distinctly appear, where walling has been raised upon them.

We find a Doomsday Proprietor, of the name of Godric, as holding *Hulla*, § (a Hill,) whence

\* It is engraved with elevation, section, and ichnography. *Gent. Mag.* Aug. 1763, † Corbett's, *Military Government of Gloucester*, p. 86. ‡ *Id.* p. 116. § As quoted by Heath.

Howl in Walsford, and there can be no doubt but the position and command of the ford, dictated the erection of a Fortress. After the conquest it descended to William Earl Marshall, doubtless in the same manner as Tintern, before described, for he was not grantee from John, as erroneously published, but held it in 1165, 12. Hen. II.\* The grant merely implied restoration. This William Earl Marshall, who died in 1219, had five sons, all issueless, and as many daughters, heirs to their brothers. Joan the second daughter was wife of Warin de Monte Capisio, [Montehensi] by whom she had issue, John S. P. and Joan, wife of William de Valence;† his sister and heir. Eliz. Comine heir of Audomar de Valence, carried it, in marriage to Richard Talbot.‡ In the reign of Edward III. Richard Lord Talbot, made great repairs and improvements, of which, vestiges appear in the sharp-headed arch, without a curve, peculiar to that reign. Gilbert eldest brother of John, the famous Earl of Shrewsbury, who resided here much in the 15th century, was, by the style exhibited in the Chapel, apparently another improver. The Talbots had also a Castle at Penyard, and like all the Barons of the day, were of migratory habits, through occupying their own estates, but Richard probably made Godrich, his *standing house*, or

\* Hearne's, Lib. Nig. i. 160 † Chronic. Abb. Tintern, Dugd. Monast. i. 726. ‡ Fosbroke's Gloucestershire, i. 348.

chief dwelling. It was afterwards a seat for children, for in 1576 Lord Gilbert Talbot, son of the Earl of Shrewsbury, was resident here, with Mary his wife. This appears by a letter of which the following is an extract, here given, because it contains information concerning the state of the country. "According to my ryches and the contry I dwell in and not to my desire, I send your L. a new yer's gyfte; a Monmouthe Cappe, and a rundlette of Perrye, and I muste require pardon to name the other homely thyng, a payre of Rosse Bootes, wich yf they be fytt for yo'r L. you may have as many as pleas you to appoynte."\* This Lord Gilbert was afterwards Earl, and dying May 8th, 1616, left Eliz. daughter and coheir, wife of Henry Grey, Earl of Kent, in which family it continued till upon the demise of the last Henry Duke of Kent, in 1740, his estates in the counties of Hereford and Gloucester were sold.† Thus it fell by purchase into the Griffin family at Hadnock.

The best solution of the inscription and figures in the S. E. tower, which the Author can suggest is the following. As both inscription and figures are in relief, and the edges of the blocks flush with their fellow stones, without any hollow in the middle, they were manifestly cut before putting up, made with regular tools by workmen, and are not coeval with the fabrick. One of the blocks

\* Communication.  
ii. 208.

† Fosbroke's Gloucestershire,

furnishes a clue. Upon it, are the figures of a hart couchant, and a swan, close to each other; a pretty broad hint, for the first was the badge, or cognizance of Richard the Second, and the other of Henry the Fourth. The latter, being then Earl of Derby, &c. a subject, was here on a visit at the time his son, [Henry V.] was born at Monmouth, and made a great feast upon the occasion at this Castle.\* It was usual, upon the visits of great men, to put their arms in stained glass, in the Hall Windows, and use other modes of commemoration,† To this visit and feast, the inscription and figures seem to allude. The man with the Hawk on his fist, the symbol of Nobility, and drest in the costume of Henry's æra, is apparently intended for Henry himself, and his Lady with her new born child, according to a custom quite common,‡ is personified by the Virgin Mary, and the infant Jesus. *Sumptuarius*. signifies, he, *qui erogat sumptus*,§ or "who lays out the money." If therefore the inscription be read MASTR [*Magister*] SUMT [*uarius*] ADAM HASTUN, the meaning will be that, "Adam Hastun, *head-steward*, or *Magister Sumptuarius*," caused these figures to be put up, in commemoration of the visit alluded to, this room being that in which

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\* Bloomfield on the Wye, p. 14. † Fosbroke's Brit. Monachism, 288. ‡ Id. p. 482. Petrarch's Laura was so represented and many others § Ducange v. *Sumptuarius*.



the royal guest was lodged. Add to this, that the form of the letters is of Henry's æra.

The tower itself, much older, is stated to have been built with the ransom of an Irish prisoner and his son.\* The helmet of the former, long preserved here, would it is said, have filled half a bushel. This has been ridiculed; but whoever has seen the helmet of Sir R. Pembruge, K. G. t. Ed. iii. in Hereford Cathedral, will find that these head coverings, being made of one piece, without joint or hinge, were of course enormously large at the neck in order to be drawn over the head.

This strong fortress was in the Civil War, at first occupied by the parliament, and successively afterwards by both parties, but in 1646, it was garrisoned for the King, by Sir Richard Lingen, and taken by Col. Birch. The following is the account of the Siege, in the Newspapers of the day.

By letters to members of the House of Commons we have express, that a party of horse and foot, were drawn out of Hereford in the morning of March 10th, and joined with Colonel Kirle's horse and dragoons, and Captain Ramsey's firelocks. Colonel Kirle having joined his forces, went against Godrich Castle, a strong hold of the enemy's, and there fell on the stables, and took

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\* It is certain, that in the reign of Henry IV. Henry Talbot, sold to Lord Berkely, 24 Scottish Prisoners, taken by him. Berkeley Manuscripts, p. 147.

64 horses with the hay and other provisions therein ; burnt down the stables and went into the passage house, where they took most of their officers and soldiers, and have laid close siege to it. *Tuesday, March 17th, 1645,—6.*

It was Colonel Birch's party from Hereford, and Colonel Kirle's from Monmouth, that attacked Godrich Castle. Colonel Kirle, besides this, snapt another party of the enemy from Ragland, and took a lieutenant and quarter-master, 12 firelocks and 6 case of pistols.—*Perfect Diurnal from March 16th to 23rd, 1645—6.*

In the *Perfect Occurrences* for the 23rd week, ending June 5th, 1646, is the following paragraph.

Colonel Birch begs the committee to let him have some battering pieces for Godrich, else (he says) "I may sit down long enough before it ; Lingen being an excepted person, and one unto whom I cannot grant any honourable terms."

In the same paper for the 24th week, June 1646 is this : "Letters from Hereford dated June 1st, advertise of Colonel Birch being before Godrich with a considerable body of horse and foot ; and 2 mortax pieces and other equipage. The great Iron Culverin was going from Gloucester thither, and Colonel Birch hath sent to the committee of Salop for 2 guns from Ludlow : yet the enemy within

are very resolute, but not lavish in their ammunition; and their sallies are inconsiderable, almost all their horses being taken, to the number of about 50 by us: Colonel Birch upon advice with his council of war, gave order; and June the 1st, his pioneers began to work, to make approaches within pistol shot of the enormous rampiers, and intends, when they are finished, to shoot granadoes in the mortar pieces. There is yet no summons sent in, but when all is ready to storm, then it is resolved to be dispatched. The prisoners that we have taken, say that they within are exceeding well provided with all necessaries, both for provisions and men, who, depend much upon the strength of the castle. Lieutenant Colonel Keckerman hath received a wound by an almost spent bullet from a musket, in his leg, and intends to remove to Hereford to be cured.

*Monday, June 22nd, 1646.* From the leaguer before Godrich Castle, letters advertise us, that the enemy within, are very resolute, if not desperate. A summons was sent on June 13th with abundance of fair and pressing arguments; but the return was a flat denial, and confident expectation of relief before they needed it; which occasioned Colonel Birch never to parley more; and thereupon sent them in 6 granadoes, and tore down a piece of one of their towers. They seem yet fearless, but sparing of their ammunition, which,

we hear to be not much; and yet they made a sally out and killed us 7 and hurt 10, and we have wounded as many of theirs. They cannot some think, subsist long: water begins to fail them: beer they have but little left; but other provisions they have plenty; but their hearts are stable; their walls strong and high; nothing but extremity will force them; we are to make some new approaches and then to mine; but in the mean time they desire a good supply of powder, that they may not want for their batteries, granadoes, mining and mortars; since no other way is like much to speed the work.

Colonel Birch then summoned Sir H. Lingen, the governor, and a correspondence ensued, but it is a mere general matter of menace on one side, and defiance on the other. The last letter of Birch is this to the speaker.

SIR,  
Since my coming before this castle, I have used all means tending to the speedy reduction thereof, and am approached upon all sides so near that they annoy me with throwing of stones. I find the thing in itself very strong, and the defendants (being excepted persons and papists) very desperate. They have made many sallies, inasmuch that they have lost at several times 100 horse, and now have not above 5 remaining. They have not killed me above 24 men in all, and never took one prisoner, though divers times we have been at hand-blows, and I find that my batteries, mortar pieces, and mining, being the three ways we now put in execution, having cast a mortar piece here, which carries a shell of 200 lbs. weight, I shall spend;

more powder than is here to be had, and for want of which I shall not be able to go on, if not supplied: my humble request therefore to the parliament is for 80 barrels of powder for the service of this place and county; the Magazine at Hereford being very small: with which assistance I question not to give you a timely account of this Castle, and to approve myself,

Your Humble Servant,

JOHN BIRCH.

*From Godrich, June 18th, 1646.*

One of the letters from thence tells us, that one of the Cavaliers called to our Pioneers at work in the mines, and said they cared not for being blown up, they could from the sky laugh at the flourishing of the Round-heads. The above is from the *Perfect Occurrences for the week ending June 26th, 1646.*

In the *Perfect Diurnal* of July 6th to the 13th, it is said as follows.

“Colonel Birch goes on well against Godrich Castle, and is like to carry it suddenly.”

In the *Perfect Occurrences*, for the 9th and 20th week, ending Friday July 15th, 1646, is the following letter from Godrich Castle, concerning the proceedings of Colonel Birch there.

SIR,

The enemy within are very obstinate. We have supplies of shels for our granadoes from the Forest of Dean. Our mortar piece is 15 inches diameter; yet some are come in to us out of the castle, who affirm, that there is great execution done in the castle by those shots we

have made; that many parts of it are torn. After we had at first been awhile before them, they sallied out and surprized our chief guard, killed eight of our men, and had possession of both of our mortar pieces, but could not carry them away; they did what they could to break them but could not. Then they put a glass vessel of poison in the pieces, thinking to spoil them and us this way, and retreated into the castle, carrying with them a fired granadoe which lay in the place. There is one of our guns cracked at the muzzle: I am afraid she will not prove useful: but they are now very quiet within, yet will not yield. Our ordnance are small, and have done but little execution as yet. What hath been performed yet hath been with our mortar pieces—Colonel Birch hath sent to the general for two great guns, (as this country is badly provided,) our mines go on well. This is all at present.

Your Humble Servant,

B. S.

*From Godrich July, 4th, 1646.*

In the *Perfect Occurrences* for the 1st and 30th week, ending Friday the 3rd. of July, 1646, is as follows.

*Saturday. August 1st.* From before Godrich Castle, the only garrison the enemy hath now left in England, except Pendennis, we perused letters, of which we will give a copy of one, which gives an account of Colonel Birch's proceedings there.

SIR,

We are in very good forwardness with our mine, and hope very shortly to see the effect of it. Our guns have made a breach in the upper part of the wall, and the granadoes have done them much spoil in the castle; yet they take no more notice of it, than if no enemy were before it, acting little against us; only now and then firing off their muskets, yet our great mortar piece and mine (I

verily believe,) will occasion a parley for mercy, which if they obtain, I conceive will be well for them, for our leaders are extremely incensed against them. It is little thought (I believe) at London, what pains and cost is here taken; but the reducing of this once slighted castle, I hope the ————(sic) Lingen's estate will make satisfaction both to the state and to us. I am grieved that any difference should be amongst ourselves, but the occasion of it I leave to the righteous Judge, for a reward; and hope the issue will be good to those who go on with the parliament, and desire a safe and well grounded peace, without self-seeking base ends, which are hateful to

Your humble Servant,

I. E.

*Godrich Leaguer, July 18th, 1646.*

In the same paper it is said, "Nothing yet from Godrich Castle, more than what the former letter expresseth."

In the *Perfect Diurnal* from Monday August 3rd to 10th, 1646, is, "This day there came letters to the house, from Colonel Birch, which certify that Godrich Castle in Wales, not far from Ragland, is surrendered unto him for the use of the parliament. The enemy was very resolute as long as they had any hope, but Colonel Birch drawing up close upon them both horse and foot, and entering some works, the enemy hung out a white ensign, and desired a parley. The Colonel not willing to lose his advantage, refused the parley. They cried out for honourable terms. He offered mercy and went on in his enterprises. They seeing the case desperate and themselves in a lost condition, accepted of mercy upon these ensuing conditions.

*First*—That Sir Henry Lingen the governor of Godrich Castle, with all the officers and soldiers therein, shall have mercy for their lives.

*Secondly*—That the said Sir Henry Lingen, the governor, with all the officers and soldiers should surrender up themselves prisoners, to be at Colonel Birch's disposition.

*Thirdly*—That all the arms and ammunition, provision and whatever else is in Godrich Castle, shall be delivered up to Colonel Birch, for the service of the parliament.

*Fourthly*—That the same be performed personally the same day, (viz). July 31st 1646.

All which was done accordingly, this present day, and Colonel Birch is now in possession of the Castle, wherein besides the governor, were about 50 gentlemen and others of quality, and 120 soldiers

In the *Perfect Occurrences* for the week ending August 7th, 1646, is the following further detail of the capitulation, by which it appears from there being *only four barrels of powder left*, that the main cause of the surrender was want of ammunition

“ This day there came letters from Colonel Birch of the taking of Godrich Castle, all prisoners at mercy, the castle and all therein surrendering to him.”

“ A list of the officers names, the number of the soldiers, and of what was taken in Godrich Castle, July 31st, by Colonel Birch.”

|                          |   |                        |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Sir H. Lingen, Governor, | } | Sarg. Maj. John Pye,   |
| L. Col. Rog. Lingen,     | } | Captain James Edwards, |
| Sarg. Maj. James Wade,   | } | ———William Hill,       |
| Ditto James Wakeman,     | } | ———John Vaughan,       |



Captain Fredrick Hooke,  
 — Edward Cornwall,  
 — Patison,  
 Lieutenant T. Hill,  
 — John Mabbs,  
 — Howel Matthews,  
 — Wm. Greene,  
 — Richard Lochard,  
 — Peter Strets,  
 Cornets Alford.  
 — Matthew Morse,  
 — Charles Rosse,  
 — John Beamont,  
 Ensign Harris,  
 Gentlemen R. Bodenham,  
 — Thomas Bodenham,  
 — Rog. Vaughan,  
 — John Skippe,  
 — John Bodenham,  
 — John Wigmore,  
 — Wm. Madden,  
 — John Barrington,  
 — Laur. Kinsman,  
 — Richd. Chaudler,

Gentlemen T. Cornwall,  
 — Thos. Strete,  
 — Ralph Lingen,  
 — Bodenham Gunter,  
 — Wm. Edkins,  
 Six Gentlemen more.  
 Henry Maine, a supposed  
 Popish Priest.  
 Taken also, 60 Common  
 Soldiers,—Two Hammer  
 Pieces,—Four Barrels of  
 Powder,—A good pro-  
 portion of Match and  
 Bullet.—120 Arms, fixt,  
 and unfixt,—30 Barrels  
 of Beery,—1 Standard  
 Culler,—Great Stores of  
 Corn, and Meal,—60  
 Fitches of Bacon,—150  
 Bushels of Pease,—1  
 Hogshead of Claret Wine  
 Half a Hogshead of Sack,  
 Good Store of Butter,  
 Cheese and Beef.

Their gallant defence merits the preservation of their names; some of the families still subsist.

In the same paper it is added, "Colonel Birch is marching with all his forces and artillery, leaving only a few to keep Godrich and Hereford."

In the *Perfect Diurnal* from March 1st, to the 8th, 1646—7, it is ordered "that in Herefordshire, Godrich Castle be slighted." Barquet Lingen, of Sutton Court, held it for Charles I.

It is said, upon authority of Sanderson, that Colonel Broughton, out of Gloucester, undertook to garrison Godrich Castle, but this is a mistake. Colonel Broughton's Captain Lieutenant, says

Corbett,\*) with 50 soldiers undertook to garrison *a house near Godrich Castle*, neither obvious to relief, nor caring to fortify or store the place with victuals. This was done in the Governor's absence without order, disavowed by all, and owned only by the Captain himself, whose plea was, that he had no support for his men, and was forced to get his living there; but within a few days his house was fired upon him, and all his, carried prisoners to Hereford, before relief could reach him."

The connection of Godrich with the Civil Wars is further noticed in History, by its relation to the ancestors of Dean Swift, which celebrated person presented the travelling chalice for the service of the sick, used by his grandfather Thomas, Vicar of the Church. The Swifts were anciently seated at Rotherham, in Yorkshire. The elder branch was ennobled in the person of Barnham Swift, who was created Viscount Carlingford, Mar. 20, 1627, a title which became extinct upon his decease, without male issue. From a younger branch of this line, descended Thomas Swift, Vicar of Goodrich, a person distinguished by his courage and loyalty to King Charles I. in whose cause he suffered more than any person of his condition in England; for he was plundered by the Round-heads thirty six times, some say above fifty. He engaged (sic) his small estate, and having thus

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\* Military Government of Gloucester, p. 116, 116.

gathered 300 broad pieces of gold, he quilted them in his waistcoat, and escaping to Ragland Castle, which still held out for the King, he presented to the Governor thereof this seasonable supply, an action which must be allowed to be the more extraordinary, inasmuch as it was performed by a private Clergyman, with a very numerous family and small estate, which had been often plundered, and who was deprived of his livings in the Church, Godrich and Bridstow. His estate at Godrich and Marstow, was also sequestered. About the time of the capture of Hereford by the rebels, he was imprisoned [correctly, *took shelter*, for Ragland was then in the King's hands] in that famous Castle. He was particularly accused of having bought arms and conveyed them into Monmouthshire, though he had not done so, and of having preached in Rosse upon that text: "Give unto Cæsar &c." in which the Earl of Stamford said he had spoken *treason*, in endeavouring to give Cæsar more than his due. This Thomas Swift married Eliz. Dryden, Aunt to the Poet, and by her was father of ten sons and four daughters. He died in 1658. Jonathan the fifth son, an attorney, married Abigail Erick, of Leicestershire, and had issue by her Jonathan, the famous Dean; and a daughter, wife of Joseph Fenton, a tanner,\* a match abhorred by her distinguished brother.

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\* Thus Mason, Hist. of St. Patrick's, Dublin, i. p. 227 229. In this work p. 229, is given from the Mercurius

The PRIORY, formerly called Flanesford, was founded by Richard Talbot in 1347, who was buried there, but at the dissolution removed to the Parish Church. The Priory Church appears as a barn, annexed to a house occupied by Mr. Bellamy, with an adjacent fish-pond.

The ancient manerial Court House is, or was ornamented with the carved figure of a Talbot, (a species of dog,) in allusion to the family name.

WALFORD on the left bank, has few antiquities. One is a *Castellum* or small square entrenchment upon Howl-hill, apparently an exploratory post to the Camp at Penyard. Another is a fortified Manor House, so altered according to tradition, that it might not be surprized by a Coup de Main, from Godrich Castle. The courts and yards are so disposed as to flank and command each other, nor could the House be taken without first carrying these, and a mount behind, which might hold field pieces. The third is the Warren, an encampment used by Colonel Kyrle, Lord of the Manor and resident at the Court House, before mentioned. He was first in the service of Charles, but turned to the Parliament. Being interred in Walford Church, where his helmet is still preser-

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Rusticus, a long detail of the plunder of the Swifts. The villainus utterly disregarded protections, which Mrs. Swift had purchased, and tried to starve the infant children, "threatning the miller, that if he ground any corn for them they would grind him in his own mill."

ved, a tradition has arisen, that here was buried the more worthy defender of Godrich Castle, an opinion, founded upon confusion of persons.\*

In the Newspaper called *Perfect Occurrences*, from April 25th, to May 2nd, 1645, is the following paragraph.

“ Prince Rupert marched (from Bristol) by Walford, towards Ross, the last week, with 2000 foot and horse, with two pieces of ordnance, who since we hear were quartered near Brampton.”

The Church had formerly a spire, which was destroyed by lightning February 17th, 1813.

Near the Church of RUERDEAN, are the earthworks of a castle. From the remains of an arch, it appears to be of the 13th century, the æra of nearly all the architectural remains in the vicinity. It was the seat of the Alba-maras, and through female heirs of the Devertyes, Bicknors, and Baynbams.

It appears to have been a small strong hold with a Barbican. The shell of a seat built about the reign of Elizabeth, shows that the castle was then deserted. It was most probably destroyed for materials, when the seat was erected; nothing being left.

Tradition points out a spot, from whence the

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\* Anecdotes of Colonel Kyrle, will be given under Monmouth.

Castle was battered by Cromwell's Troops; but the Castle was probably not then in existence, and there is an apparent confusion with the real fact, that after the surprize of Monmouth, Ruerdean was made by Massey, Governor of Gloucester, a parliamentary garrison to stop plunderers from Hereford.\*

Upon the opposite bank is COURTFIELD, the modern seat of William Vaughan, Esq. just above WELCH BICKNOR Church, so called because an insulated part of Monmouthshire. This separation was not uncommon, on account of annexation to a particular barony.

Mr. Coxe relates the following anecdote of an ancestor of the Vaughans. Walking one day with his son, who had been long married without issue, he challenged him to leap over a gate. The son attempted it without success; on which the old gentleman vaulted over it easily, adding "as I have cleared the gate for you, so I must e'en provide you with an heir." Accordingly he married at the age of seventy five, and left a son and three daughters.

It certainly was a Celtick method to put children out to nurse, at a neighbouring farm,† and in the Highlands, the children of gentlemen, often grow up in the families of their nurses;‡ but in England

\* Corbett, p. 119. † Pennant's Whiteford, p. 2

‡ Newte's Tour, p. 146.

they are removed at an age of puberty, to the houses of persons of rank.\* Sir Bevill Granville's house, till the civil wars (of Charles I.) broke out, was a kind of academy for all the young men of family in the country; he provided himself with the best masters of all kinds; and the children of his neighbours and friends shared the advantage with his own.† When the revolution commenced, says Lord Clarendon,‡ all relations were confounded by the several sects of religion, who discountenanced all forms of reverence and respect, as relics of superstition. Children sought not blessing from their parents, and their education was neglected for fear of expence. Young women conversed without circumspection or modesty, and frequented taverns; so that Charles II. was not the author of *all* the debauchery of his æra. Consistently with the fashion of the times, before the parliamentary usurpation, Henry V. was nursed at Courtfield. The country people well knowing the attachment, which subsisted between *collactanei*, or foster-brethren,§ have converted broken angels on each side the sepulchral effigy of the nurse, in the church, into the infant Henry and his fellow suckling. That the effigy really is that of the nurse is founded upon unvarying tradition, and with probability. The respect paid to nurses, both among

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\* Hoveden a. o 1191, Biogr. Brit. v. 698, et alii.

+ Watkins's Bideford, 222.    † Own Life, i. 243.    § See Giraldus Cambrensis in Camden's Scriptores, p. 743.

the Romans and our ancestors, was highly filial, and they acted as Chaperons to the daughters, often living in the family, till death.\*

Mr. Shaw, mentions an ancient Chalice, belonging to this church, as the presumed work of Arabians, near the borders of Spain, and of the date of 1176,† whereas it is only a mistake of the church-warden's initials, and the year 1600.

At ENGLISH BICKNOR, are traces of a castle, or castellated mansion.‡

At SYMOND'S YAT is a square camp, connected with the wars between the Romans and Silures; for the position is immensely strong.§

Upon the GREAT DOWARD is a camp, of which, through natural defences, only the west side is strongly fortified by entrenchments, because that part was deemed accessible. Spear heads have been found; and the common marvellous tale is told of the discovery of a Giant's bones in a place seemingly arched over.

Between the Great and Little Doward, in a valley, lies a singularly picturesque estate, called the Kiln House Farm. In a corner of it, is a romantic cavern, bearing the name of King Arthur's

\* Suetonius p. 425. 448. 456 559. Ed. Babelon—Smythe's Lives of the Berkeleys M. S.—Shakespeare in Romeo and Juliet, alludes to the custom. † Western Tour, p. 196. ‡ Bigland's Gloucestershire, in Bicknor. § So Mr. Gough Camden, ii. 448, Edition 1786. I could not find it: possibly it is hid by the wood.



Hall. It was certainly a Celtick custom so to denominate caverns, and "Fingal's Hall," a similar excavation, was a residence at least during hunting seasons.\* Caves were winter habitations of the Britons,† and residences or places of protection for the Highlanders.‡ This is merely given to illustrate a Celtic custom of so denominating caverns; for this is only a worn out iron mine.

Upon the Little Doward, a hill of peculiarly fine outline, viewed in front from the Monmouth road are the interesting remains of a British Camp. Three circular terraces wind up to the summit. It is a valuable relic of British fortification, where Caractacus probably posted himself, for how otherwise are the adjacent Roman Camps on the Great Doward and Symond's Yat to be accounted for? Ostorius probably endeavoured to force him by the Great Doward, but apparently did not succeed; and being compelled to cross the river, encamped at Symonds Yat. This inference is drawn from the circumstance of the Gauls taking up a position protected by a river, where even Cæsar declined action.§

At GANEREW, Vortigen's palace has been absurdly placed by Geoffrey of Monmouth, and his copyists; but the real spot seems to have been Dinas Emrys, engraved by Sir R. C. Hoare.||

\* Campbell's Journey from Edinburgh, i. p. 179.

† Henry's History of Great Britain, ii. 113. ‡ Newte's Tour, p. 234. § Bell. Gall. L. v. c. 47. || Giraldus, i. 125.

Roman Coins have been found at MONMOUTH, but the *Blestium* of Antoninus is probably Staunton from whence by the Kymin runs a Roman road to the town under discussion.\* A British Fortress is said to have existed previous to the Roman Conquest, and to have been occupied by the Saxons, to support their conquests between the Severn and Wye. It is supposed to have been rebuilt by John, Baron of Monmouth,† whence in failure of issue, it was aliened to Prince Edward, (afterwards King Edward I.) in 1257. In 1265, after the quarrel between Symon Earl of Leicester, and Gilbert Earl of Gloucester, the former successfully besieged the castle, which Gilbert had taken and fortified; and levelled it with the ground.‡ It was however rebuilt or repaired, for devolving to John of Gaunt, by marriage with Blanch, daughter and heir of Henry, Duke of Lancaster—Henry of Bolingbroke, John's son; our Henry IV. was father of the Agincourt Warrior Henry V. born here.§ His father Henry was

\* Gents. Magazine, Jan. 1822. † In the Barons' wars in 1233, the Earl Marshal came to Monmouth to reconnoitre it for a siege. Baldwin de Gysnes the governor, discovering him, rushed out, wishing to bring in the Earl a prisoner to the castle. His bravery preventing success, a knight killed the Earl's horse. The latter seized one of Baldwin's companions by the foot, dismounted him, and jumped upon the horse. Baldwin in a rage tore off the Marshal's helmet, and seized the bridle. A cross-bow-man, seeing his danger, shot Baldwin in the breast. While his men were attending him, the Marshal was neglected, and his army coming up, a great slaughter was made among the Castellans. M. Paris, p. 329. Edition Watts. ‡ Triveti Annales, p. 223, 224. § Gough,—Nicholson, &c.

then at Godrich Castle, and upon receiving the news of his son's birth, made a grand feast there.\* As part of the Duchy of Lancaster, Edward IV. granted it to the Herberts with whose other possessions it has devolved to the Dukes of Beaufort.† The remains stand upon the ridge of an eminence to the N. of the Mynnow. The chamber where Henry V. was born, is part of an upper story, and 58 feet long by 24 broad. Another large apartment, probably the hall, adjoins. A circular stair-case tower leads to the grand apartments, and vestiges of the castle exist among stables and out-houses. From the ruins arose a handsome edifice in 1673, an occasional residence of the Beauforts; now a school.

The possession of Monmouth, as being the key of South Wales, was perpetually contested during the Civil War. In 1643, Lord Herbert had begun to place a garrison in it; but when Sir William Waller advanced, the soldiers abandoned the town, because it was naked and open.‡ It was recovered again for the King,§ and was alternately in the possession of both parties. The accounts are as follow.

“ Col Massey after capturing Beachley and Chepstow, took the town and castle of Monmouth,

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\* Bloomfield on the Wye, p. 14. † There are other accounts since the grant, but they appear to confound the fee-farm with the estate, ‡ Corbett, p. 31. § Id. 61.

which is not only the enemy's inlet into Wales, but a magazine to serve Bristol and other of the king's quarters with provisions; the manner of gaining thereof being very remarkable, and certified to be thus. Colonel Kyrle, who revolted from the parliament upon the loss of Bristol, went out with a party some miles from Monmouth, to fetch in some provisions, and being as full of jollity, as security, the most valiant Colonel Massey fell upon him and his company in the midst of their mirth (which it seems they preferred before the sending forth of scouts) and so surprised them."

"The said Colonel Kyrle being conscious to himself of his former services to the parliament, feared that he should not obtain quarter without a present recompence, and thereupon did undertake to bring Colonel Massey's men into Monmouth, offering to march in the front, which was concluded accordingly; and at his coming to the guard, they thinking it had been their own forces let down the draw-bridge, and without any opposition received them into the town, and they demanded it for the parliament, at which the garrison was so exceedingly amazed, that some of them fled away, and left their arms, and the rest called for quarter; and so this town being of great consequence, together with the castle, was reduced to the obedience of the parliament, with the loss of not above six men on both sides." Thus the

*Perfect Diurnal*, (a newspaper of the day) from September the 1st, to the 7th, 1644.\*

When Monmouth was surprised by Massey, most of the soldiers escaped, but many officers and persons of quality were taken. So *Le Mercure Anglois*, No. 15, which repeats the story of Kyrle's treachery, as does also the *London Post*, No. 7, October 1st, 1644. It adds, that Massey found in the town some brass cannon.

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\* Corbett's account varies in the particulars. Colonel Kyrle made overtures to Massie, governor of Gloucester, for the recovery of Monmouth. The latter having pursued the Prince's [Rupert's] horse into Wales, and destroyed the enemy's project in fortifying Beachley, quartered with his horse and foot near Monmouth on the Forest side, and receiving an answer to a message lately sent to Lieutenant Colonel Kyrle, propounded unto him, and followed this way; that he would feigne a post from Gloucester side, to desire a sudden return with his forces thitherward, to secure that part of the country from the enemy, which was already flown out from Bristol and Berkeley; and this message was to come to his hands at Mr. Hall's house, at High-meadow, a grand papist, where it would take wing, for its dispatch for Monmouth, by which means Kyrle commanding the horse might easily draw forth some troops to follow the rear of our party. Hereupon he feigned a sudden retreat to Gloucester, and having marched back three miles, lodged his forces in a thicket of the Forest, and sending his scouts abroad, prevented the enemy's discovery. In the mean time the intelligence reached Monmouth, and Lieutenant Colonel Kyrle draws out, whom the Governor surprized at midnight in High-meadow house, with his troop of 30 horse, and with as little noise as possible, advanced thence to Monmouth. Nevertheless, 'twas not so deep a silence but the alarm was given by the Cornet of the troop, who escaped the surprisal, and the attempt made more difficult, if not desperate. The town took the alarm, stood upon their guard expecting an enemy. Notwithstanding this, Kyrle with a hundred select horse, arrived at the town's end, confidently came up to the draw-bridge, pretending a return with many prisoners taken, pressed the guards and pre-

Soon afterwards the town was recovered in manner following, according to Corbett. Massie was invited by some Monmouthshire Gentlemen to take Chepstow, and Major Throgmorton was induced to weaken the garrison at Monmouth to take advantage of this surrender. The news was forthwith conveyed to the enemy, who drew together all the strength they could make of Horse and Foot from Ragland, Abergavenny, Hereford, and Godrich, and November 19th about break of day, came to the town and lay undiscovered behind a rising ground, at a quarter of a mile's distance, never flinching to make an attempt, much less to surprize it. But as the Governor's unavoidable absence, and the important enterprize of Monmouth Garrison, did cause their approach, there being not above 150 left there, so the negligence of the

vailed with Colonel Nottby, the governor of the town, by the Officers of the guard, to let down the draw-bridge, which was done, but with much jealousy, and a strong guard, and the bridge presently drawn up again, inso-much that the first party were like to be held prisoners in the town. Our forlorn hope saw that it was time to lay about them. They declare themselves, overpower the guard, and make good the bridge. They kept a strict watch over Kyrle's department, who acted his part with dexterity and valour. Our body of horse and foot were at hand, had a large entrance, subdued the town in a moment, and spared the blood of the surprized soldiers. But the dark and rainy night fitted the governor of Monmouth with the major part of the Garrison with an escape over the dry graft. We took one Major, three Captains, and divers inferior Officers, sixty common soldiers, five barrels of powder and some arms, but the town itself was the best prize, being the key of S. Wales and the only safe intercourse for the King's Army, between the West, Wales, and the Northern parts—Corbett p. 109. 111.

Captain, to whom the keys were entrusted in the Major's absence, gave up the town into their hands. So remiss were the slender guards, that the Trevally was beaten and none took the alarm. The enemy observed, and took the courage to attempt the surprisal, come upon the higher side of the town, that looked towards Hereford, having only a sloping bank cast up to a reasonable height with a dry graft of no depth; insomuch that the guards and sentinels being all asleep or supinely negligent, above forty men presently clambered over and fell down to the next part, where they found not more than six men, who fled from the ground upon their coming on. With this, one takes an iron bar, breaks the chaine, forces the gate and sets it open to the whole body of horse, who rid up the town with full career, seized upon the main guard, before one man could be ready to give fire, and took the rest in their beds. It was done in a moment, where we lost Col. Broughton, four captains, lieutenants and ensigns, some of the committee, together with common soldiers about 160 persons, two sakers besides a drake, and nine hammer guns, taken at Beachley with ammunition and provision, and at least 400 muskets.\*

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\* Corbett, 118. The London Post of December 3rd 1644, gives a different account. It says "Colonel Massey having intelligence that the enemy was quartered and plundering about the edge of Gloucestershire, advanced to encounter them; he had left 600 men in Monmouth to defend that towne, giving them charge that they should not stir forth until his returne; but the enemy having some design

The next *London Post* of December 10th says, "There was some hope of the recovery of Monmouth; but by reason of the overswelling of the river Severne, the countrey thereabouts is so covered with waters, that but little good in this winter season is to be expected. Some places neere Monmouth are however garrisoned to save the Forest of Deane from the enemies incursions out of that towne."

By the same paper of January 17th, 1644—5, it appears, that these incursions kept Massey's troops constantly on the alert.

A letter from Gloucester in that paper says, "We have a foule quarter hereabouts with the enemy, by reason of the losse of Monmouth. The Welch are still hearkening for our governour's absence, and then on the Forrest of Deane's side we never want constant alarmes, especially when he is towards Stroud or Cicester, so that we have a hellish life, unlesse we could divide our forces, and that cannot be till these horse doe joyne with us."

In the *Mercurius Veridicus*, October 11th—18th, 1645, it is said, "As for Lunford's in-

at Chepstow, there was 400 men sent out to fall upon them. In the mean time the Lord Herbert understanding what a weak power was left in Monmouth, he sent eight of the most crafty of his souldiers, in the habit of country peasants who pretending to be for the parliament, held a long discourse with the sentinels upon the draw-bridge, when behold, upon the sudden, two troops of Horse appeared, who breaking through the sentinels did enter the towne, which they not long after mastered."



clining to acceptance of £500, for the surrender of Monmouth, they know not of it."

This Lunsford was the famous Sir Thomas, who furnishes a curious instance of the virulence of party slander. From some report of cruelty towards women and children, he was calumniated as a person who fed upon the latter, as being actually a Cannibal.\* To him the following lines of Hudibras allude,

Made children with your tones to run for't,  
As bad as Bloody Bones or Lunsford."

P. iii. c. ii. l. 68.†

In the *Mercurius Veridicus* of October 18—25, we have "Colonel Morgan with the Monmouth, and Glamorganshire clubmen have besieged Monmouth, whereof Lunsford is governour. They have sent in summons, and received a negative returne." However it was very soon after taken in manner following.

"Colonel Morgan with the assistance of the country clubmen came against the towne with a considerable number of horse and foot, and after the enemy perceived that we had an intention to storme them, they fled out of the towne into the castle, after which the townesmen, considering with themselves, that if we entered by force after summons, they should be left to the violence of the souldiers, they let fall the draw-bridge, by

\* *Mercur. Aulic* Ap. 2—9. 1642.  
*Popular Antiq.* ii. 361.

† *Graeger* ii. 243.

which means our men entered the towne, and the enemy stood on their guard in the castle. Then we sent for pyoneers to Deane and other parts, which came in very freely, and the next day being Thursday we began to undermine in several places; which the enemy perceiving, sent out for a parley, which was consented unto, and hostages given on both sides. At which it was agreed, the officers should march away with their owne armes, and the common souldiers without. *Mercurius Verdicus*, October 25th—November 1st, 1645. The castle however stood a siege of three days. *Perfect Diurnal*, February 9th—16th, 1645—6. The military *Vicar of Bray*, Colonel Kyrle of Walford Court, obtained the government of the town, and surprised some stragglers successfully, the apparent utmost of his services. *Mercurius Verdicus*, No. 28. November 1st—8th, 1645; but was not confirmed in his situation till March, 1645—6. *Perfect Diurnal* March 16—23, 1645—6.

In the *Cities Weekly Post* of January 13th to 20th, 1645—6, it is reported, that 200 of the Ragland Horse entered Monmouth, but were driven out with much shame and loss.

Such was the state of Monmouth in 1659, that the Judges did not dare to go there to hold the assizes.—*Mercurius Politicus*, August 4—11, 1659, No. 582: but were obliged to refer the affair to parliament, who ordered a commission.

A Post-office was not established at Monmouth and several other parts of South Wales, till November 1663. *The Intelligencer*, Monday, November 16th, 1663.

The town was moated and walled, with four gates. Only a part of the moat remains, stretching to the ruins of an old gateway, in the street, near Ross turnpike. Parts of two round towers which flanked the South gate are visible, and the Monnow gate is entire. Some vaults under the house of Mr. Cecil, of the Duffryn, are attributed to Anglo-Saxon, if not *Roman* workmanship. On the North side of the church says Gough, stands a ruinous square building, in which are very thick walls, niches, and windows, and three round arched doors; supposed remains of the Priory. Tanner says, that it was founded by Withenoc de Monmouth, in the reign of Henry I. who placed a convent of black monks from St. Florian's, near Salmure in Anjou, in the church of St. Cadoc, near the castle, and afterwards in the church of St. Mary, or Catherine, as Speed. The present church occupies the site of that of the Priory, but having been partly reconstructed about 1740, the tower and lower part of the spire are the only ancient fragments. The Priory house contains an apartment, said to have been the library of Geoffrey of Monmouth,\* whose legendary work shows the extreme ignorance of the Britons, as to

\* Nicholson, &c.

their own real history. Such inventions as his, were *common practices* in the middle ages.\* St. Thomas's church is a curious old structure, ascribed in part to the Saxons, and even to the Britons. The mouldings of some arches excite particular attention. The suburbs beyond the Monnow are probably the site of the British town. Two ancient hospitals founded by John Monemue, once existed; and a free school and almshouse remain, the benefactions of William Jones, who from a porter, became a factor in London. There is also a chapel, once belonging to the makers of Monmouth Caps mentioned in Shakespeare's Henry V, of which the manufacture was removed to Bewdley, on account of a plague.†

Near Monmouth stands a very lofty eminence, called "the KYMIN." Here is a naval temple, in honor of Lord Nelson, and our other marine heroes. From hence is a most superb view of the banks of the Wye from the New Weir to Monmouth; and on the S. E. look to the nearest eminence, and you see in front the *Buckstone*, (so called from a silly story about a buck,) a famous rocking stone of the Druids, not a mile distant. Some writers upon Gallick Antiquities, call them *clacka-brath*, i. e. judgment-stones. In one direction they were moveable; but in others, the greatest force only pressed their immense weight against the sides of

\* See this exhibited in Fosbroke's *British Monachism*, new Edition, p. 19. 341.

† Nicholson, &c.

the cavity in which the apex was placed.\* They are supposed to have been used in divination, the vibrations determining the oracle; or from their sound, when violently pushed, and reverberating, that they were suited to alarm the country upon the approach of an enemy,† or as there was a passage round them, that sanctity was acquired by perambulating them; that the cavity was a sanctuary for offenders; for introducing proselytes, people under vows, or going to sacrifice,‡ or for oracular answers,§ Such stones were also funeral monuments, for Mr. Bryant says,|| “It was usual with the ancients to place one vast stone upon another for a religious memorial.” The stones thus placed, they poised so equally, that they were affected with the least external force; a breath of wind would sometimes make them vibrate. These were called rocking stones.

Thus various accounts. It is well-known that the Roman manners did not penetrate into Scotland and Ireland, from whence are to be drawn the best existing elucidations of Celtic superstition; and it is also clear that originals of the poems of Ossian are found in the Highlands, however embellished, or garbled by Macpherson. In the poem of Carric-thura we have “A rock heads along the coast, with all its echoing wood. On

\* Smith's Gaelic Antiquities, p. 71. † Archaeologia V. ix. p. 216. ‡ Borlase, p. 138, &c. § Watson's Halliwell, p. 26. || Notes upon Apollonius Rhodius, Argonaut, B. i.

the top is the circle of Loda, the *mossy stone of power*." And again "The king of Sora is my son, he bends *at the stone of my power*." In Fingal B. iii. we have a still stronger passage, "He called the grey-haired Snivan, *that often sung round the circle of Loda; when the stone of power heard his voice*, and battle turned in the field of the valiant." Now round Stonehenge and this rocking-stone runs a green path; it was for the *deisol*, or perambulation round the temple, or stone, three times,\* a custom which Giraldus Cambrensis says, that the Irish transferred to churches.† From Ossian we see, that the bard walked round the stone singing, and made it move, as an oracle of the fate of battle. That such stones were also sanctuaries appears from the following anecdote. "Three Englishmen in the reign of Edward I. flying from William Wallace, took refuge at the stone, called the Needle of St. Andrew, in that town *thinking to be saved by the immunity of the stone*."‡ That it was also used for healing is evident from a neighbouring custom. In Christchurch (Monmouthshire,) in the middle of the chancel, is a large flat stone, said to have belonged to a saint, but a mere memorial for one John Calmer, and upon this stone, every year, on Wednesday eve before Trinity Sunday, many women and children, who are weak in their limbs,

\* See Borlase.

† Camdeni Scriptores, p. 743.

‡ Knighton, in X. Scriptores, col. 2515.

are brought from distant places to lie from sun-set to sunrise; the parish clerk remaining with them all the night with candles."\*

Above the stone is a rock-bason, for libations of blood, wine, honey or oil, according to Borlase,† but children upon birth were immersed three times in water among the ancient Irish: and lustral water is ancient also; consisting of rain water for greater sanctity.

Upon the eastern corner of the stone is a rude arch now almost stopped up by growth of the soil, which according to Borlase, was the *sacellum*, or little chapel,§ where the Druid of the stone placed himself. So late as 1682, a hermit in Ireland, to whom the country people brought all manner of presents, was called the "*holy man of the stone*."||

The form of the stone is an irregular square inverted pyramid,¶ and the writer of this upon trial could just perceive it move. The point, where it touches the pedestal is not above 2 feet square. Its height is about 10 feet: S. E. side 10 feet 5 inches: N. side 17 feet: S. W. 9 feet, and its south side 12 feet. The rock pedestal is an irregular square: S. E. side 12 feet: N. 14 feet 9 inches: W. 21 feet 5 inches: S. 14 feet.

\* Gough's Camden.

† P. 230.

‡ Giraldus in

X. Scriptores p. 1071.

§ P. 150.

|| Collect, Reb.

Hybern. No. ii. p. 64:

¶ It is engrazed in the Anti-quarian Repertory, v. i. p. 119.

The student of Celtick Antiquities will see a fine illustration of these Druidical rocks and groves in a French book entitled "*L' Ermite en Provence*," or manners of the Basques, a people at the foot of the Pyrenees.\* That it conveys a real representation of the ancient practices alluded to, cannot be doubted, The *Bilcar* (*Bil*, assembly and *Car*, a contraction of *Cahar*, old men,) was not held in a palace, or in a space inclosed with walls, but in a wood, upon an eminence, which commanded the commune of Ustaritz. Two pieces of rock formed the seats of the president and secretary; another black, the surface of which has been roughly polished, served as a table, and there were inscribed the deliberations, and decrees of the council. The members composing the assembly stood leaning on thorn sticks, with their backs against old oaks, which formed a circle. They had as much respect for this wild spot, as the Romans had for the Capitol adorned with the images of their Gods, Indeed the Basques called and still call it, *Capitoli Heri*, i. e. Capitol of the Country.

"That stone circles were the round *hypæthral temples of the sun*, in Britain, mentioned by Diodorus, seems to be strongly supported by the following passage from Holinshed,† here given because it is long anterior to the age of Stukeley,

\* The passage here is taken from the Literary Gazette No. xxv. p. p. 23. 24.

† V. p. 45. Ed. 4to-



who has been called the *first* appropriator of these works to the Druids. "Mainus, King of the Scots, long before Christ, upon a religious devotion towards the Gods, having an assured believe, that without their favours all worldlie policies were but vaine, devised sundrie new ceremonies to be added unto the old, and also caused certaine places in sundrie parts of his dominion to bee appointed out, and compassed about with huge stones round like a ring; but towards the south was one mightie stone farre greater than all the rest, pitched up in manner of an altar, [Cromlechs] whereon their priests might make their sacrifices in honor of their Gods."

In witness of the thing there remaineth unto this day certaine of those great stones, standing round ringwise, which places are called by the common people the old chappels of the Gods."\* The famous *Lechlanar*, a stone bridge over a brook was so denominated, viz. *the speaking stone*, because it once spoke, when a corpse was carried over it;† and in the church-yard of *Maentwrog*, Merionethshire, is a long stone called *Maen-twrog* the stone of Twrog, a British Saint. who lived about the year 610, so that the early Christians

\* The Cromlech near Marecross co. Glamorgan is called the *Old Church*; and more instances may be seen in Gough's Camden. † Holinshed vi. 166. The oaks were also oracular, for Dr. Clark deduces the descent of the Pelasgi from the Celts, (Trav. vi. 451.) and Virgil has (Georg. ii. v. 16.) *Habita Graiis oracula quercus* [Oaks were deemed Oracles by the Greeks.]

adopted the superstition, but changed the stones into crosses.

The situation of this stone was evidently chosen, because it could be conspicuous for miles; being seen from even Ross Church-yard, distinguishable from a tree by its flat head and Y like form; a little below the nose of the promontory. Adjacent to it, is a large barrow, and on the Coléford road, a huge upright stone, sepulchral or memorial, called the Long Stone. "An old Roman road," says Mr. Coxe, "leads from the left bank of the Wye up the Kymin, passes by Staunton, and was part of the old way from Monmouth to Gloucester. At Staunton are many indications of Roman settlement. The name of Staunton proves the existence of a Roman causeway."

The first object just out of Monmouth, is *Troy House*, so called, because situated upon the small rivulet Trothy. It was formerly a seat of the Herberts; now of the Dukes of Beaufort, who reside here during the races and assizes. It is the work of Inigo Jones, and contains noble apartments, *en suite*, ornamented with fine portraits of this ducal family. Among its antiquities is a fine carved chimney-piece brought from Ragland Castle; and, as is said, the bed in which Henry V. was born, his cradle, and armour in which he fought at Agincourt. The bed is of scarlet cloth, richly fringed, the posts covered with the same. There is no

anachronism in supposing it of the 15th century: and beds *with curtains*, appear at this æra, to have been a distinction of knights banneret.\* The cradle of the classical ancients varied, being of theseveral forms of a small bed,† a buckler‡ or a boat.§ Rocking was usual :|| Martial says, by men.¶ Juvenal mentions a vaulted tester of fine linen to keep off flies.\*\* We find a cradle of the middle age suspended by cords, and covered with cloth,†† and that of Henry V. once preserved at Newland, is a wooden oblong chest, without tester, swinging by links of iron, between two posts, surmounted by two birds for ornament.‡‡ This looks much more ancient, than that at Troy, which has a tester, rockers, and is covered with crimson velvet, but this is similar to ancient royal cradles.§§ Both among the Romans,||| and ourselves, the children slept in them at night, being confined by bands across.¶¶ As to the armour, it appears to be much more recent than the time of Henry V. and only a suit for training youth. The inference therefore is, that these are relics brought from Ragland Castle, of the Somerset family.

On the Monmouthshire side of the river, about a mile and a half below Monmouth, is the church

\* Ducange Gloss, v. Banneret. † Lampridius in Ant. Diadum. ‡ Theocritus in Heraclic. § Montfaucon, iii. p. i. v. 2. c. 9. || Theocrit. ubi sup. ¶ Epigr. xi, 40. \*\* Edit. Lubin, vi. lin. 81. †† Ducange v. Bercellum. ‡‡ From the Engraving. §§ Leland's Collectanea, iv. 184. ||| Sueton in Augustus, 94. ¶¶ Decem Scriptores, 1656: Lei, ubi supra.

of PENALT, situated on the side of a woody eminence, at the back of which is an extensive common. On this common is a large *oak* tree, at its foot a *stone* seat. When a corpse is brought by, on its way to the place of interment, it is deposited on this stone, and the company sing a psalm over the body.

Here is an evident continuation of the *oak* and *stones* of Druidism, and Celtick customs altered into a Christian form. It is the "song of Bards, which rose over the dead," mentioned in Ossian's death of Cuthullin, an accompaniment of the Irish howl,\* and altered by the Popes into the Trental.†

Opposite Penalt is CLOWERWALL, the castle-imitation seat of the Wyndams; and Bicksweir was a Manor, parcel of Tintern Abbey, granted to Tracy Catchmay. With Joan, only daughter of the last Tracy Catchmay, it passed to the Rooks,‡ in which family the seat and the estate remain. On the summit of this eminence, in a bleak uninteresting country, are the remains of the Castle of St. BRIAVELS, patched and cobbled, like a worn-out shoe. It was built by Milo Earl of Hereford, for the residence of the Lords Wardens of the Forest of Dean, and to restrain the incursions of the Welch. But it has been for centuries in a state of decay, and is now a prison, for delinquents in the Forest,

\* Collect. de Reb. Hybern, by Gen. de Valancey.

† Ducange, v. BARDICATIO. ‡ Fosbroke's Gloucestershire, ii, 141.

and debtors in the Hundred. In the church is a fine tomb of William Warren. The pannel contains a specimen of the ancient manner of swathing infants, exactly similar to the Roman,\* and the tyrannical custom of children, being only permitted to kneel upon a cushion, or cushioned form, when in the presence of their parents.† When the Britons buried, they erected stone pyramids or pillars,‡ an usage, which ended in crosses instead. § The close-stone is one of these. Formerly there was a hermitage belonging to the Abbey of Grace-dieu. Every inhabitant of this parish gives 1d. per annum to buy bread and cheese, on Whitsunday. The bread and cheese are cut into small pieces, and immediately after the service is ended, the congregation hold their hats, aprons, &c. and the churchwardens throw it to them; most commonly a general scramble takes place. This indecorous custom has recently been transferred from the church to the church-yard. It is said to be the condition of having right of common on Hudknolls, an extensive tract of wood-land: but a similar custom prevailed at Paddington, where loaves were tossed from the church-tower to be scrambled for,|| as an omen of future plenty.¶ It was derived from the *Panis fiscalis* of the Romans, so termed because given at the expence of the treasury, and

\* Boissard, iii. 20. † Henry's History of Great Britain, v. p. 3. ‡ Antiq. Discourses, i. 212. § King's Monumenta Antiqua. i. 180. || Lyson's Environs, iii. p. 305. ¶ Mercur. Public. May 24—31, 1690.

called also *dispensatorius*, *civilis* and *gradilis*, because it was distributed from an elevated place, the steps of the amphitheatre, &c.\*

When the manufacture of wire by mills, was introduced into this kingdom, [anno 1596] the Artists who came from Germany† *first* settled at Whitebrook and TINTERN ABBEY. "Not far from hence (Tintern Abbey) says an ancient writer is now (1708) erected two Furnaces and two Forges, which perhaps make the best malleable iron in the Kingdom, that is here made into Wire, by water-mills, and other ingenious inventions, brought here by Germans, many years since, whose posterity succeeds them in their seats and employments. Here and at Whitebrook, near adjacent, are the only places in Britain for making this sort of Wire, which hath proved so advantageous to this country, and to the whole nation."

The famous Copper-work, (Red-brook) that turns so much to the advantage of the Nation, and benefit of the Undertakers is also on the river Wye managed by *Swedes*, and other Foreigners.‡

At Tintern is a House formerly belonging to the family of Fielding, battered, according to tradition by the parliamentary troops, from the brow of the hill on the opposite side of the river, where there has certainly been an encampment. This work is

\* *Encyclopedie des Antiquit. v. PAIR.* † Qu. ? the accounts vary. See Beckman's *Inventions*, ii. 243. ‡ *Excursion* p. 51, 52.

not likely to have been thrown up merely for the purpose of knocking down a house; and therefore it more probably appertains to the Anglo Saxons, who fought here against the Britons.

In the year 610, Ceolwulph, King of Wessex, attacked the Britons in Glamorganshire. Theodorick or Tendric the Welch Roitelet of that country had resigned the throne to his son Maurice, and "led an eremitical life among the rocks of Dindyrn." His former subjects used to say, that he had always been victorious; and therefore as soon as he showed his face his enemies took to flight. They accordingly dragged him from the desert against his will; and the royal Hermit, once more a General, routed the Saxons at this place. In the action he received a mortal wound on the head, and desired his body to be buried, and a church to be built, upon the spot where he should happen to die. This place was Mathera near Chepstow; and Bishop Godwin says that he there saw his remains in a stone coffin.\* Tintern is said to be derived from *Din* a fortress, and *Teyrn* a Sovereign; and it is probable, that the present Abbey, was founded upon the very site of this palace, and hermitage; for it is noticeable, that the parish (Chapel Hill,) is divided into two villages; that part, where the Inn is situate, being

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\* *Usserij Antiq. Eccles. Brit.* p. 292, Ed. 1687.—and Richardson's *Godwin*, p. 498.

called *Abbey*, and the lower part near the convent the *Old Abbey*. From hence there arises a presumption, that the first monastery founded by Walter de Clare, in 1131 was begun near the Inn; but that Roger Bigod, in whose æra the present fabrick was certainly built, removed it to the site of the *Old Abbey*, for otherwise how can the distinction of *old* be satisfactorily explained?

Chaucer says, for "threttene is a covent as i guess," accordingly there were thirteen religious here at the dissolution. The idea was taken from Christ and the twelve Apostles.

Grose says of Tintern, "The principal remains consist of the church, which affords a fine specimen of the style of Architecture, called Gothic. Its rich west window still quite entire is much admired, though perhaps somewhat defective in proportion, being rather too broad for its height. The small door beneath it, is extremely poor: the intent of the Architect is manifest. He meant by its contrast with the loftiness of the roof to strike the beholders.—On the whole, though this Monastery is undoubtedly light and elegant, it wants that gloomy solemnity so essential to religious *ruins*."\* That at least the scenery confers.

William of Worcester gives the following dimensions of the Abbey,

\* iii. 167.



# TINTERN ABBEY,

*Length in yards. Breadth in yards.*

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Total length.....           | 75 |
| Body of the Church.....     | —  |
| South and North Aisles each | —  |
| Both Transepts.....         | 50 |
| Area of the Bell Tower..... | 12 |
| Vaulting in height.....     | 22 |
| Cloister .....              | 37 |
| Infirmary.....              | 34 |
| Chapter House.....          | 18 |

*Windows. Panels.*

|                                                                                  |    |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|
| Clere story .....                                                                | 10 | 2  |
| N. Side lower part.....                                                          | 10 | 2  |
| Clere story.....                                                                 | 10 | 2  |
| E. window, with the arms of<br>the Ro. under, Roger Bygot<br>Ailes—East end..... | —  | 8  |
| Principal North Window...                                                        | 2  | 3  |
| Breadth of the N. and South<br>Windows 3 yards each, &<br>each contained.....    | —  | 14 |
|                                                                                  | —  | 6  |

*Arches. Windows.*

|                                                        |    |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|----|
| South side of the Church.....                          | 10 | —  |
| Intercolumniation 5 yards.....                         | —  | —  |
| Choir.....                                             | 4  | —  |
| Number of arches on each side of the whole Church..... | 14 | —  |
| South side lower part of very long window.....         | —  | 10 |

# INTERIOR MEASUREMENTS.

The actual measurements are as follows.

|                              |     |     |                               |    |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|----|-----|
| W. door to E. Window....     | 228 | 76  | Breadth of centre arch in the | 30 | 16  |
| North to South .....         | 150 | 50  | clear.....                    |    |     |
| Breadth of the centre pillar |     |     | East Window above the         | 64 | 203 |
| from centre to centre..      | 37  | 123 | wall .....                    | 42 | 14  |
| Height of centre arches....  | 70  | 234 | West Window .....             | 38 | 91  |
| Height of small arches.....  | 30  | 10  | Wall above the west door      | 14 | 41  |
|                              |     |     | Breadth of the west door      |    |     |

If any particular deviations from strict architectural precision occur, the remark of Sir Christ. Wren is to be recollected, namely, that the Norman Builders were not exact to a nicety, either in their intercolumniations, or arches, or other matters.

From what has been said concerning the ancient appropriation of the Banks of the Wye to religious institutions it may be believed that the term LLANCAUT was derived from *Llan* a Church, and *Caw* a British Saint, whose family had lands given them in Gwent (this country) by Arthur. Nor does the mention of this name fictionize the tradition; for the Arthur of romance is merely a hero of a novel, borrowed from a real historical King and General, mentioned by Llywarch, Merddin and Taliessin, his contemporaries, and by the Triads, (documents of undoubted credit,) who however is not in any wise exalted by the Poets or Triads, above other Princes, who held similar stations in the country.\*

Lancaut has a military importance in another æra, the civil wars. Sir John Wintour's cavalry landed at Lancaut, where they intended to fortify and make good the pass over the Wye, by which means they might issue out of Wales, at their pleasure.†

CHEPSTOW CASTLE is said to have been besieged and taken in 1645, by the parliament;

\* Sir R. C. Hoare.—Dibdin's *Typograph. Antiq.* i. 246.  
† Corbett's *Military Government of Gloucester*, p. 128.  
M. S. S. Snell.

surprized for the king in 1648, and again recovered by the parliament; in some of which captures, treachery had a large share: notwithstanding, after a long siege, conducted by Cromwell, it was once taken by storm, and nearly all the garrison put to the sword.\*

The following paragraphs are taken from the newspapers published during the civil wars. They vary from the quoted account.

“ From Gloucester therè is also certain intelligence brought to the parliament the same day, that Colonel Massie had issued out with a party of his garrison, and fallen upon Sir Henry Talbot's forces at Shepstow, (sic.) where he surprized the colonel, three captains, three lieutenants, three Irish reformadoes, sergeant major Thorn, besides sixty common soldiers, with much arms and ammunition.” *Perfect Diurnal*, January 29th to February 5th, 1643—4.

“ From Gloucester it is certified, that Colonel Morgan, the governour, is recovered of his health, and is gone to the besiegers of Chepstow; the town was taken the latter end of the week, and they were in fair hopes of the castle, (which accordingly did surrender.)” *Mercurius Verdicus*. No. 25. October 11th—18th, 1645.

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\* So Nicholson, &c.

Treachery had a share in this, for in the *City Scout*, No. 13. from October 14th to 21st, 1845, it is said.—

“ To as little purpose, as Rupert's carrying the ladies to breakfast at Abingdon, when whom (sic) Colonel Browne billeted upon his quarters, and got more upon their bones, than they for their own bellies. Indeed *Lunsford*, (governor of Monmouth,) turned out the governor of Chepstow upon such a project, which made the man come about to us, and they lost both town and castle by it.”

In a *Perfect Diurnal*, from Monday, October 13th, to the 20th, 1645, is this.

“ A messenger this day came to the house, with a further confirmation of the good news from Wales, of the taking of Chepstow Castle, and the town with ordnance, arms, and ammunition as before. The house ordered, that thanks should be given to God, on the Lord's day next, for surrender of the said castle and town, in like manner as Basing and Winchester. They further ordered, thanks and a reward to the Governor of Gloucester, that faithful, gallant, and religious Gentleman.”

The stores in Chepstow Castle were immense, namely as follows.

|                                               |                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Eighteen pieces of cannon<br>great and small. | 30 barrels of salt.               |
| 16 barrels of powder.                         | 4000 weight of biaket.            |
| 2 harquebuses.                                | A butt of sack.                   |
| 6 ton of lead.                                | 3 hogsheds of metheglin.          |
| Great store of fire-works.                    | 4 hogsheds of beer.               |
| 30 beeves in powder.                          | 70 bushels of oatmeal.            |
| 400 and odd kilderkins of<br>butter.          | 30 bushels of wheat.              |
|                                               | 10 bushels of beans and<br>pease. |

" In March, 1646, it had been ordered by the commons, that Chepstow should be kept with forty men, the new fortifications in the Haven to be demolished." *Perfect Diurnal*, March 1st—8th, 1646.

With such an imperfect garrison, its fall was a matter of course.

" Chepstow Castle having been surprised, by Sir Nicholas Kemmish, guns and battering pieces were sent for from Gloucester against it." *Perfect Diurnal*, May 18th, 1648.

" *Chepstow May 12th, 1660.* The Proclamation of his majesty Charles II. was read by Colonel Hughes, attended by divers gentlemen, and persons of quality of this country, who, with a great concoure of people, expressed their loyalty to his majesty. There were several volleys of small shot, and above a hundred pieces of ordinance discharged; besides which, Lieutenant Colonel French, governor of the castle, to encourage them in their joy, gave them an hogshhead of wine, and another of beer. *Mercurius Publicus*, No. 20.

“ *May 21st, 1660.* The Earl of Worcester, and the Lord Herbert, being content that Chepstow Castle should be demolished, the house ordered the demolishing of it; and referred it to his Excellency (General Monck) to take care of the ammunition therein.” *Mercurius Public.* No. 21. May 17—24, 1660.

Beachley Passage in the parish of Tiddenharn, across the Severn to *Aust*, (a corruption of the Trajectus *Augusti*,) is of high British and Roman antiquity. Edward the elder crossed here to meet Leoline, Prince of Wales. Its military importance in the days of Charles the first, was very great. “Prince Rupert, (says Corbett,)† sent 500 horse and foot into the forest, who began to fortify Beachley for a lasting guard, a place of extreme difficult approach, being a gut of land, running out between Severn and Wye: and the only commodious passage from Wales to Bristol, and the western parts. The governor (Colonel Massie,) advanced upon them, four days after they began the fortifications, and had drawn the trench half-way from the banks of one river to the other, when the other part was well guarded with a high quickset hedge, which they lined with musqueteers, and a ditch within, with a meadow beyond, wherein they had made a re-intrenchment. At high-water the place was inaccessible, by reason of their (the king’s)

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† Military Government of Gloucester, p. 106.

ships, which guarded each river with ordnance, lying level with the banks, and clearing the face of the approach from Wye to Severn. Wherefore the governor taking the advantage of low water, ten musqueteers were selected out of the forlorn hope to creep along the hedges. These gave the first alarm, and caused the enemy (the king's troops) to spend their first shot in vain. Upon the governor's (Massie's) signal, the forlorn hope rushed on, being followed by the reserve, and fell upon the track, when the whole and each part of the action was carried on without interruption. Of the king's troops some were killed, the rest taken prisoners, besides some few, that recovered the boats, and many of them, that took the water were drowned."

This Mássie was a petty Marlborough, much too clever for Prince Rupert, who ruined Charles's affairs, and the history of his exploits is in a military view very instructive.

"The king's friends, proceeds Corbett,\* attempted a second time to fortify this place; but before the works were complete, Colonel Massie attacked, and defeated them, but had like to have fallen in the attempt, for the foremost of his party forcing two or three pallisadoes, found themselves between the line of pallisadoes, and a quickset hedge, lined with musqueteers. The governor in

\* p. p. 114—117.



this critical situation, who was now the leader of the forlorn hope, with not a little difficulty, forced his horse over the hedge, fell in among the king's men, by whom he was furiously recharged; his head-piece knocked off with the but end of a musket, and was in the utmost danger, when some of his own men came to his assistance, and bore down the enemy before them; slew 80, and took 220 prisoners. They forced Sir John Winter down the cliff into the river, where a little boat lay to receive him. Many took the water and were drowned: others by recovering the boats, saved themselves."

The spot, where Sir John Winter escaped, is still called *Winter's leap*, and probably because he swam his horse to the boat, a story was raised, that he leaped down from the rocks.†

*S. Tecla*, to whom the chapel at Beachley was dedicated was the British Hygeia, and the curious commixture of Druidical and Christian customs, is well portrayed in the following account, connected with *S. Tecla*.

"Mr. Pennant\* speaking of the Village of Llandegla, where is a church dedicated to *S. Tecla*, Virgin and Martyr, says," about 200 yards from the church, in a Quillet, called *Gwern Degla*, rises a small spring. The water is under the Tu-

† R. Sir Atkins, 539.

\* Tour in Wales, i. p. 405.

telage of the Saint, and to this day, held to be extremely beneficial in the falling sickness. The patient washes his limbs in the well; makes an offering unto it of 4d. *walks round it three times* [the Druidical *Deasuil*] and thrice repeats the Lord's prayer. These ceremonies are never begun till after sun-set, in order to inspire the votaries with greater awe. If the afflicted be of the male sex, he makes like Socrates, an offering of a *cock* to *Æsculapius*, or rather to *Tecla Hygeia*; if of the fair sex, a *hen*. [Cæsar mentions (B. Gall. l. v. c. 12) the sacredness of *fowls*, *hares*, and *geese*, among the Britons as things not to be eaten.] The fowl is carried in a basket first round the well; after that into the church-yard, when the same orisons, and the same circumambulations are performed round the church; [the *Deasuil*.] The Votary then enters the church, gets under the communion table [as under the *Cromlech*] lies down with the Bible under his or her head; is covered with the carpet or cloth, and rests there till the break of day; departing after offering sixpence, and leaving the fowl in the church. If the Bird dies the cure is supposed to have been effected, and the disease transferred to the devoted victim.\* This is a curious specimen of Christian Heathenism.

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\*Popular Antiq. ii. 265.

### PART THIRD.

#### SCENERY OF THE WYE, (VARIOUS).

FROM

#### Plinlimmon to Ross.

THE Wye, beyond Hereford, was made by Athelstan, the boundary of the North Welch.\*

*From Plinlimmon to Llangerrig, ten miles.* The Wye commences its progress in a naked and dreary country with a distance of undulating hills† But the river scenery is disproportioned, there not being a sufficiency of water to balance the land.‡ The situation of Llangerrig is said to exceed the powers of description ||

*Llangerrig to Rhayader, twelve miles.* The river is pent up within close rocky banks, and the channel being steep, the whole is a succession of waterfalls. The Nanerth rocks, for nearly three miles, form a fine screen to the north bank. At this spot the Wye takes an easy bend, under immense woody hills. Rhaader Gwy, in the vicinity of which, Vortigern took refuge, had a castle, built temp. Richard I. by Rees, Prince of south Wales, but destroyed in 1231, by Llewellyn,

\* Will. of Malmsh. de gest Reg. L. ii. Scriptor p. Bed. fol. 28,    † Nicholson.    ‡ Glapin.    || Nicholson.

Prince of North Wales. Only the fosse remains. It had also a monastery of Dominicans. Several barrows in the vicinity: three earned on Gwastedin hill, the principal, Tommen Saint Ffraid, the supposed burial place of a Saint. Llewelin, last Prince of Wales of the British line, was killed here by an ambuscade, in 1282.\*—Rhayader is a curious specimen of a Welch town; and there is a fine print of it in the Beauties of England and Wales. The arch of the bridge is elegant, and the picturesque line of the river furnishes an agreeable scene.†

*Rhayader to Bualt about thirteen miles.* Grand scenery; lofty banks; woody vales; a rocky channel, and a rapid stream.‡ About two miles on this side Bualt, the river expands into a bay, with many naked rocks in its bed, and agreeable breaks. *Bualt* is the *Bullæum Silurum*. The old castle having been destroyed by Rhys ap Griffin, it was rebuilt by the Breoses and Mortimers. Here Prince Llewelin was killed in a which after his defeat by the English at Irvon bridge. Only a piece of wall remains. The situation of Bualt is singularly fine.

*Bualt to Hay.* The valley of the Wye is contracted, and the road runs at the bottom along the edge of the water.

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\* Gough, ii. 466. Nicholson, 1137. † Engraved in Malkin and Ireland.  
 ‡ Gilpin. || Gough, ii. 470.

Mr. Gilpin says, "It is possible, I think, the Wye may in this place be more beautiful than in any other part of its course. Between Ross and Chepstow, the grandeur and beauty of its banks are its chief praise.—The *river itself* has no other merit than that of a winding surface of smooth water. But here, added to the same decoration from its banks, the Wye itself assumes a more beautiful character; pouring over shelving rocks, and forming itself into eddies and cascades, which a solemn parading stream through a flat channel cannot exhibit."

"An additional merit also accrues to such a river from the different forms it assumes, according to the fulness or emptiness of the stream. There are rocks of all shapes and sizes, which continually vary the appearance of the water as it rushes over, or plays among them; so that such a river to a picturesque eye, is a continued fund of new entertainment."

"The Wye also, in this part of its course, still gives farther beauty from the woods which line its banks, and which the navigation of the river in its lower reaches, forbids. Here the whole is perfectly rural and unincumbered. Even a boat, I believe, is never seen beyond the Hay. The boat itself might be an ornament; but we should be sorry to exchange it for the beauties of such a river as will not suffer a boat."

\* Some beauties, however, the smooth river, possesses above the rapid one. In the latter you cannot have those reflections which are so ornamental to the former: nor can you have in the rapid river the opportunity of contemplating the grandeur of its banks from the surface of the water, unless indeed the road winds close along the river at the bottom, when perhaps you may see them with additional advantage."

"The foundation of these criticisms on *smooth* and *agitated* water is this; when water is exhibited in *small quantities*, it wants the agitation of a torrent, a cascade, or some other adventitious circumstance to give it consequence; but when it is spread but in the *reach of some capital river*, in a *lake*, or an *arm of the sea*, it is then able to support its own dignity: in the former case it aims at beauty; in the latter at grandeur. Now the Wye has in no part of its course a quantity of water sufficient to give it any great degree of grandeur; so that of consequence the *smooth* part must, on the whole, yield to the more *agitated*, which possesses more beauty."—Thus Gilpin.

A little beyond Builth, from the ferry, a beautiful reach of the river, terminates in a view of Aberhedwy Castle, of which no history is known.\* The remains are little more than a stone wall, at

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\* Nicholson says, (p. 617.) that it belonged to Llewellyn ap Gruffyth, and was the last refuge of the last independent Prince of Wales.

the end of which are the fragments of two round towers. Here is an immense range of rocks, parallel with the river, of such fantastic forms, as to present the idea of towers and castles, rising out of luxuriant copses, a fine scene under a setting sun. At *Llangoed*, the seat of — Edwards Esq. (elsewhere we have *Llangoed Castle*, bought of Sir Edward Williams, Bart. by John Macnamara, Esq.) the same kind of rocky scenery leads to a wood, the breaks of which allow glimpses of the river, as far as Swaine, where the river becomes a Bay. Near *Llangoed* is a tremendously grand dingle, far from any thoroughfare.

*Maeslough*, Mr. Gilpin says, “ The ancient seat of the Howarths. The house shews the neglect of its possessor; though the situation is in its kind, perhaps one of the finest in Wales. The view from the hall-door, is spoken of as wonderfully amusing. A lawn extends to the river; which encircles it with a curve, at the distance of half a mile. The banks are enriched with various objects, among which two bridges, with winding roads, and the tower of *Glasbury-church*, surrounded by a wood, are conspicuous. A distant country equally enriched, fills the remote parts of the landscape, which is terminated by mountains. One of the bridges in this view (that at *Glasbury*) is remarkably light and elegant, consisting of several arches.” Thus Gilpin.

Maeslough is now the property of Walter Wilkins, Esq. M. P. for the county. Not far from hence is the *dingle of the Machwy*, a scene eminently grand. At a public house called the Three Cocks, the river makes the largest horse-shoe bend in its whole course.

At the *Hay*, Roman coins have been found; and some vestiges of a fortress of that nation, as said, are near the church. (As there is a place in the town called the *Bull-ring*, it is fit to observe, that this is a common country appellation of a Roman amphitheatre.) Only a gateway of the castle remains. It is supposed to have been built by Sir Philip Walwyn; and was afterwards possessed by Maud de S. Vallery, to whom tradition attributes the building of the walls and castle. A round hill is presumed to have been a speculum.—Owen Glendour ruined the town. A hamlet, called *Cusop*, is admirably picturesque. About two miles from the town, on the banks of the river, is the Castle of Clifford, built by William Fitzosborne, first Earl of Huntingdon, and afterwards held by the Todeneis, and Cliffords. Here was born fair Rosamond.\* Dryden says, her name was Jane Clifford

Jane Clifford was her name, as books aver,

Fair Rosamond was but her *nom de guerre*.†

In the Register of Godstow Nunnery, she is however called Rosamond; and the ancient writer

\* Gough and Nicholson. † Epilogue to H. II. Anderson's Poets, 6. 201.



hereafter quoted, says her name was Rose, the remainder being an addition of the royal lover, which is not improbable, *soubriquets* being the fashion of the day, and this was one peculiarly happy. But old Chroniclers show, that it is not the first instance of the name. She was a girl of much vivacity and wit, wore garments of transparent linen, called *Nebulæ*, took great delight in viewing the wild animals, with which the park of Woodstock abounded, and was much followed by young men of fashion to obtain a sight of her.\* Drayton says, she was seduced by Henry, through corruption of her governess, by which I should think must be understood, the person of quality at whose house she was educated, this being the fashion long antecedent,† coeval with,‡ and long posterior to the age of Rosamond.§ But this governess, continues Drayton, would not have succeeded, had not Henry presented Rosamond with an admirable casket, supposed by Mr. Gough, a reliquary for her private chapel,§ on which were finely represented the sports of men and animals. This casket was, after Rosamond's death, preserved at Godstow. Lord, or rather Bishop Lytton, supposes the amour to have commenced when Henry was only sixteen years old; but this is contrary to authority; for Henry was born in

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\* *Liber Niger*, &c. † 2 Kings, c. x. v. l. ‡ *Hoveden*, Ao. 1191. f. 400. Ed. 1599. || *Biog. Brit.* v. 698. *Pas-ton Letters* iv. 288, &c. § *Introd Sepulch. Mon.* ii. 198.

1133, and the amour took place when Eleanor had been imprisoned some time.\* She was released in 1185, after a confinement of almost twelve years in which interval Rosamond had two children and soon died.† I should think it was about 1170 that the amour commenced,‡ though it is impossible to reconcile the dates of the chroniclers. Stowe, from what source I know not, says she died in 1177; others, in the *Decem Scriptores*, &c. assert, that her youngest son Geoffrey, was made Bishop of Lincoln, in 1174: whereas her tomb was removed from Godstow church in 1191, and her eldest son Will. Longespee, died not very old, in 1222. The *bower* she inhabited was the ancient term for a *house* or *chamber*, though not *Anglo-Saxon*, as Tyrwhit says, but from the *Islandic*. Tradition has preserved memorials of her residence at London, Fulham, &c. nor can it be wholly conceded, as Brompton pretends, that it was a Labyrinth made expressly so to elude the Queen's jealousy,|| because he confutes himself, observing, that the King lived in *open* and *notorious* adultery with her. The earliest mention I

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\* Brompton, col. 1151. † Cito obiit. Brompton.

‡ Female chastity in these ages was less strictly regarded than now. Mr. Warton in his *Hist. of Eng. Poetry*, cites an instance of a Knight, who on a visit at a Lady's castle, was presented by the hostess, as a matter of course, with one of her attendants, for a bed-fellow. || A *Camera Dianæ*, a *Camera Rosamundæ*, were particular names of rooms in houses, after Rosamond's æra.

find of her being poisoned is in the *Scala Chronica*, which only says, "Rosamunde was poysonid, as *cum thinke*, by the Queene, Henry wife;"\* but, according to Brompton, copied by Knighton, the noble and lovely Magdalen retired to the nunnery of Godstow, and died there; partly, as far as can be conjectured, from remorse, from fear, and, if we may believe Drayton, from no real love for Henry, whose years were very disproportionate to her own. An ancient writer tells the following remarkable story of the opening of her grave: "It befel, that she died and was buried, whyle the King was absent; | and whanne he cam agen for grette love that he had to hyr, he wold se the body in the grave; | and whanne the grave was opened, there sate an horrible tode upon her breste bytwene her teetys, and a foul addir bigirte her body aboute the middle; | and she stank so, that the King ne non other might stonde, to se that horrible sight. | Thenne the Kynge did shette agen the grave; | and dyde wryte these two veersis upon the grave, | *Hic jacet in tumba, &c.*"—Now this cannot be true, for Henry died in 1189, and her body was not removed from the church, where it lay above ground, till 1191. This is all that is known of her. I have heard a tradition that she was so fair, that the blood could be seen to flow through her veins. She is represented so in Mr. Gale's Picture, and with probability, eyes blue,

\* Lelandi Collectanea ii. 533.

light hair, and fair complexion, being the proper characteristic of ladies of that age. Probably she had the *To Ugron* of the Greeks, that sweet and tender languish, which proceeds from the upper eyelid being finely arched, and the lower nearly strait, and partly covering the pupil of the eye, full and richly blue. Thus the Greeks always represented Venus. Beauty in the human form, consists of certain harmonic proportions, reduced to rules of art, by means of which sculptors form their statues:

*Hay to Bradwardine*—Mr. Gilpin says, "The country, which had been greatly varied before, begins now to form bolder swells. Among these, Mirebich-hill which rises full in front, continues some time before the eye, as a considerable object." Thus Gilpin.

At Bradwardine, the river is richly clothed with shrubbery. Here was a castle of Sir Richard Vehan's in the 16th century.\* As to its having been the residence of the family of Bradwardine, Archbishop of Canterbury, temp. Edward III. it is very dubious; for he was born at Hertfield in Sussex.†

*Broburg's Scar*, in the Neighborhood, from the bold and majestic roughness of its form, contrasts beautifully with the views upon the banks of the river.

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\* Gough, ii. 448.

† Holinshed, ii. 710.

*Morcas Court*, the seat of Sir George Cornewall is situated upon an eminence on the south bank. The descent towards Hereford has many elegant villas, particularly Colonel Matthews's of Belmont.

The river from *Hereford to Ross*, is at first very circuitous. Near the conflux of the Lug and the Wye, six miles from Hereford, is Marclay Hill, which in the year 1557, did, in the words of Camden, "For three days together, shove its prodigious body forward with a horrible roaring noise, and overturning every thing in its way, raised itself to the great astonishment of the beholders to a higher place."

About a mile from Mordiford, where is pleasing scenery, is Holm Lacy, once a Premonstratensian Canonry founded by William Fitzswain, t. Henry III. Here is the grand mansion of the Scudamore family, in the oldest part, of the reign of Elizabeth. There are some fine carvings by Gibbons, and family portraits.\*

Beyond Fownhope is an ancient camp, nameless and square, and near it another, called Woldbury Hill, double trenched, nearly half a mile long, and narrow.† This hill is finely wooded, and the prospect extensive.—Harewood, the residence of Sir Hungerford Hoskyns, is not the place where Ethelwold, King Edgar's minister, had a castle; for that Harewood was at Wherwell in Hampshire.

\* Nicholson.

† Gough. ii 462.

Sellack has a church of singular construction, and a square camp, called Caradoc.\* At Fawley is Warrellocks, a large camp, and Fawley Court, a mansion of the Kyrles, of the Elizabethan age. Nearly opposite to Ingeston, are the remains of an ancient building. Lower down is Eaton Hill, a camp, single trenched, and vestiges of an ancient mansion in a farm house. At Abnot is a most beautiful view of Ross.—Ashwood is a fine amphitheatre of trees, which skirts the south bank of the Wye.

All this scenery from Hereford to Ross is pronounced by Mr. Gilpin, tame : and it does not exceed mere landscape.—At all events, it is not Wye scenery, which is the Grand ; and below that, is good landscape ; fine landscape ; park scenery, or embellished landscape ; and then the Grand ; or rock, wood and water ; lastly the Sublime ; or the ground accompaniments, soaring into mountainous elevation, with wild outline ; and all these, with every addition of grouping, tinting, and exquisite delicacy of detail, occur on the BANKS OF THE

—WYE,

THE BRITISH TEMPE.

\* Gough, 463

† Id. ii. 450

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